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Reference	IOR/R/15/1/472
Title	'File 53/6 (D 2) Koweit [Kuwait] Affairs, 1898-1899'
Date(s)	27 Dec 1898-2 Aug 1899 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English, French and Arabic in Latin and Arabic script
Extent and Format	1 volume (280 folios)
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Copyright for document	Public Domain

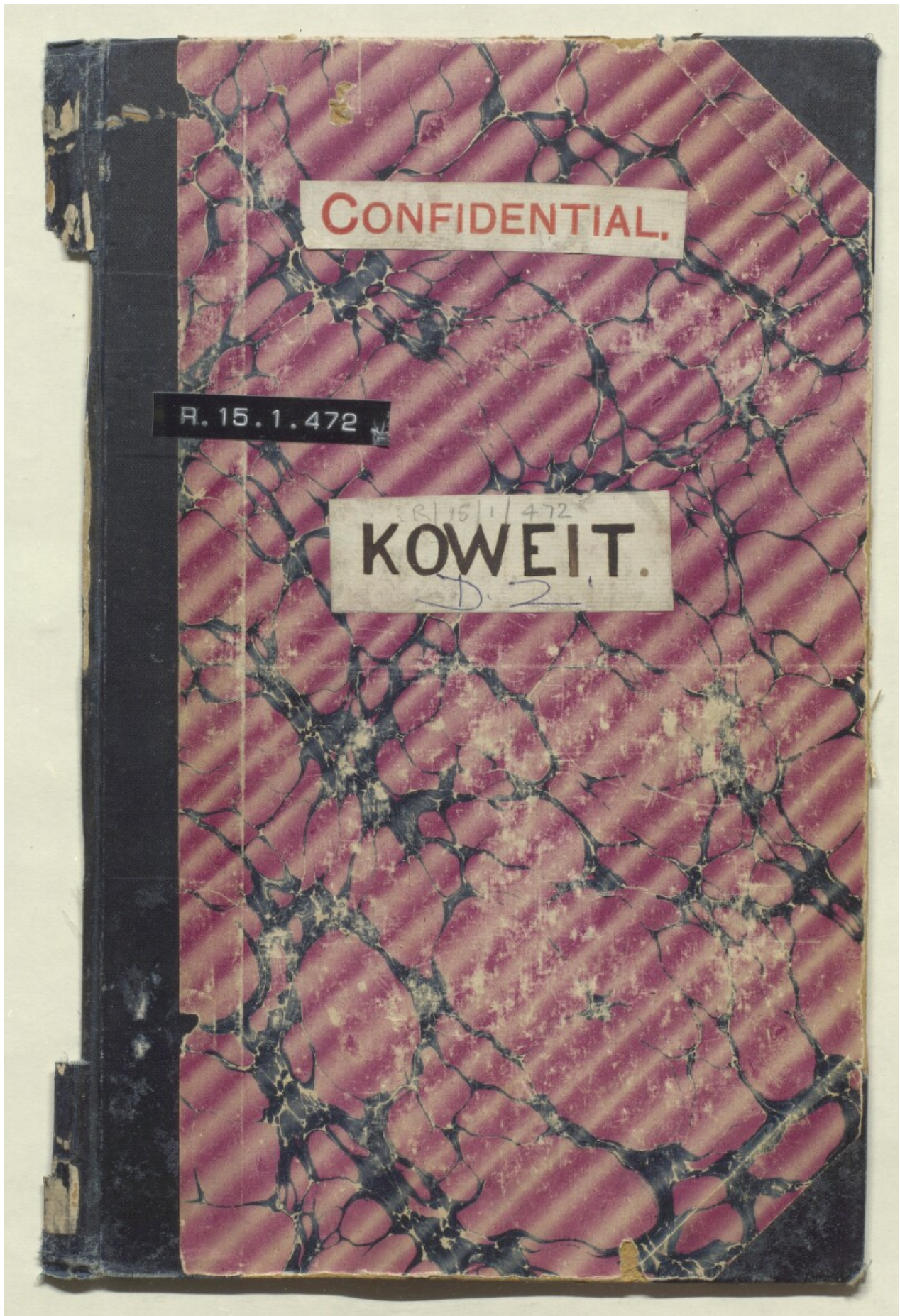
About this record

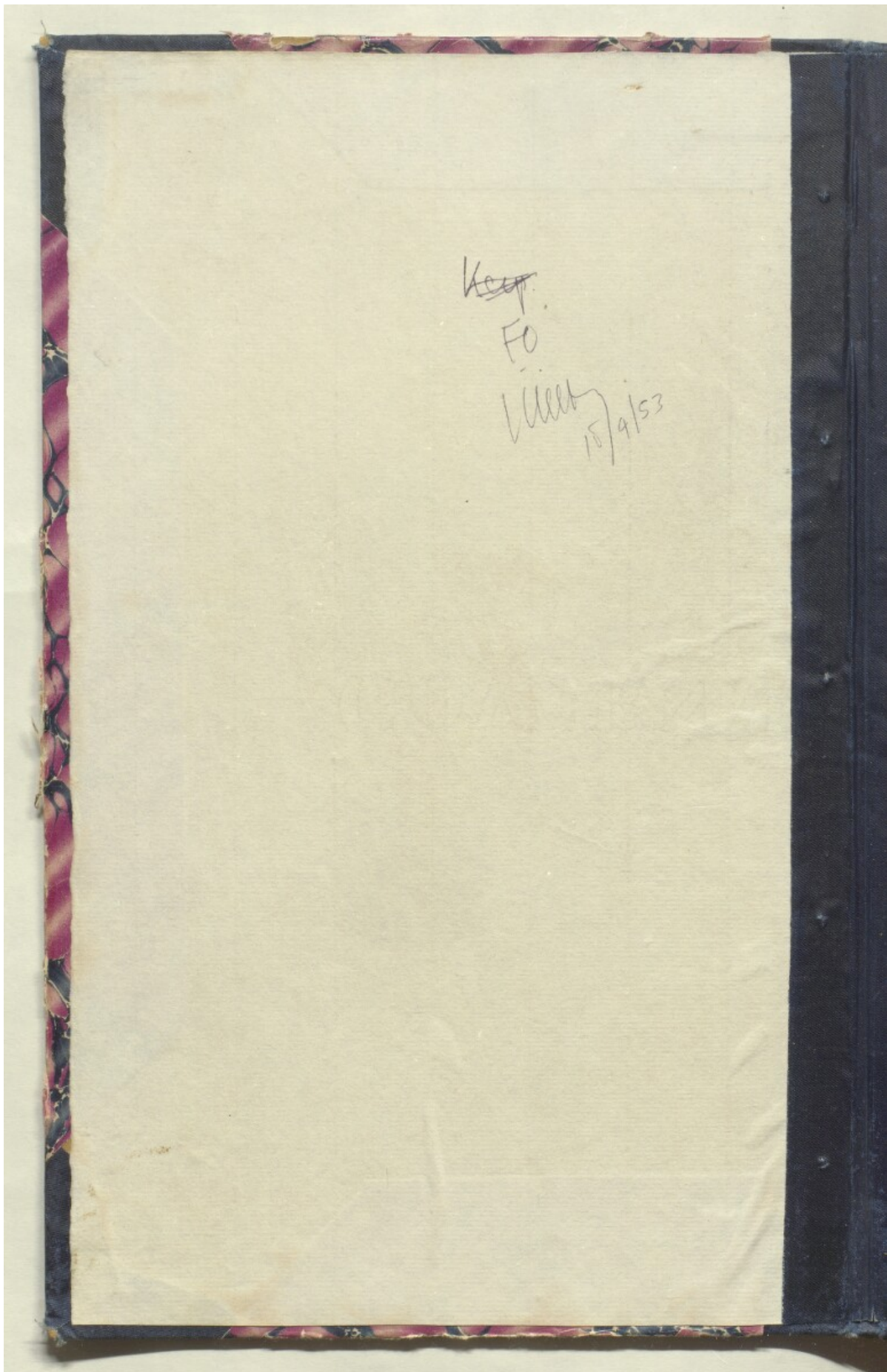
This file contains correspondence between various British officials (and correspondence directly between British officials and members of the Al Sabah ruling family of Kuwait including Shaikh Mubārak Āl Ṣabāḥ) concerning the nature of the relationship between the British Government and Kuwait.

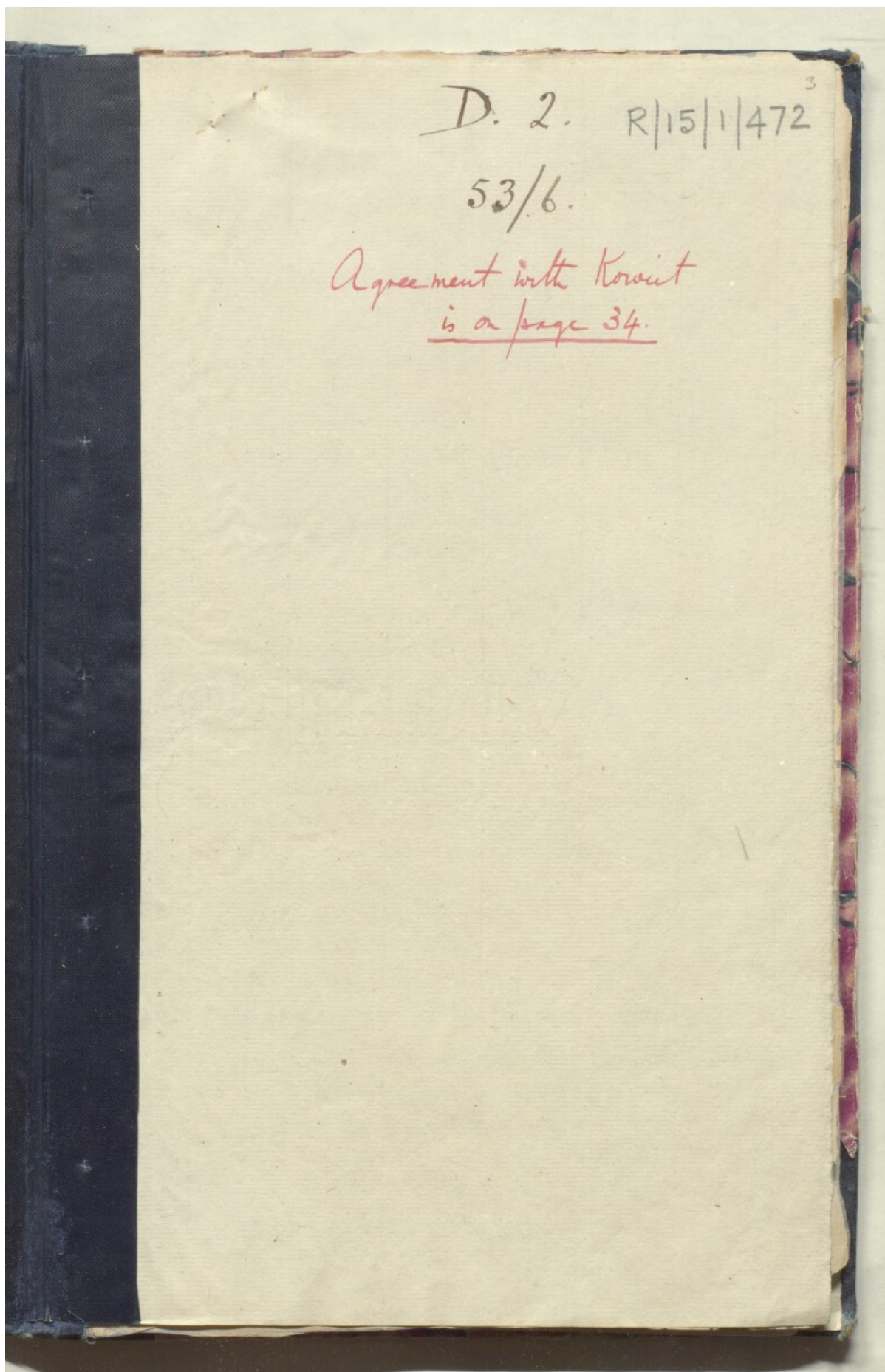
This correspondence discusses whether or not Kuwait should be made a British protectorate and Kuwait's relationship with the Ottoman state and other foreign powers. A copy and translation (into English) of a secret agreement made between Shaikh Mubārak and the British government is contained on folios 42-43.

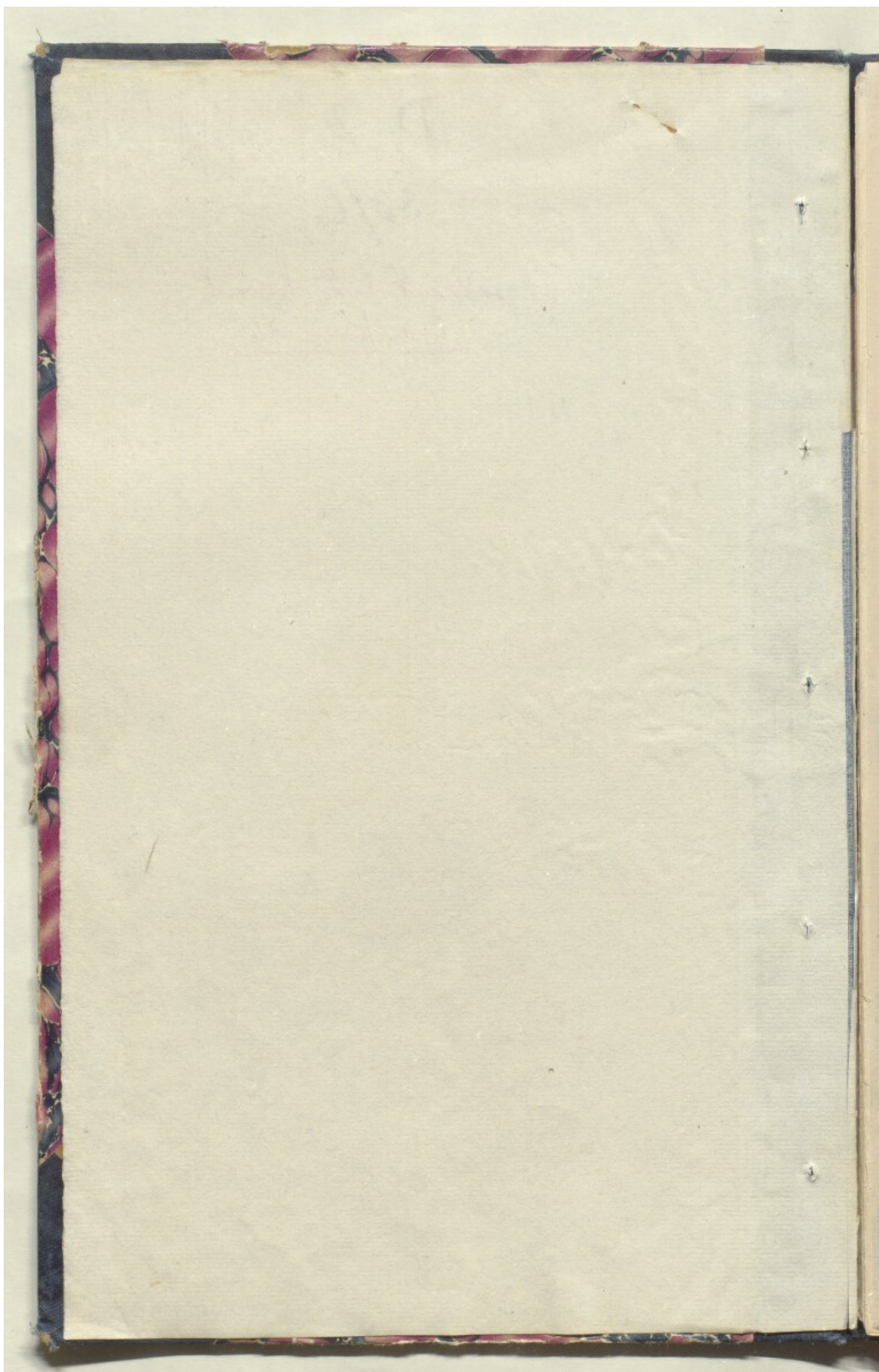
The recognition of Shaikh Mubārak as ruler of Kuwait (Mubārak murdered the previous ruler, his brother Mohammed, in 1896) is also discussed.

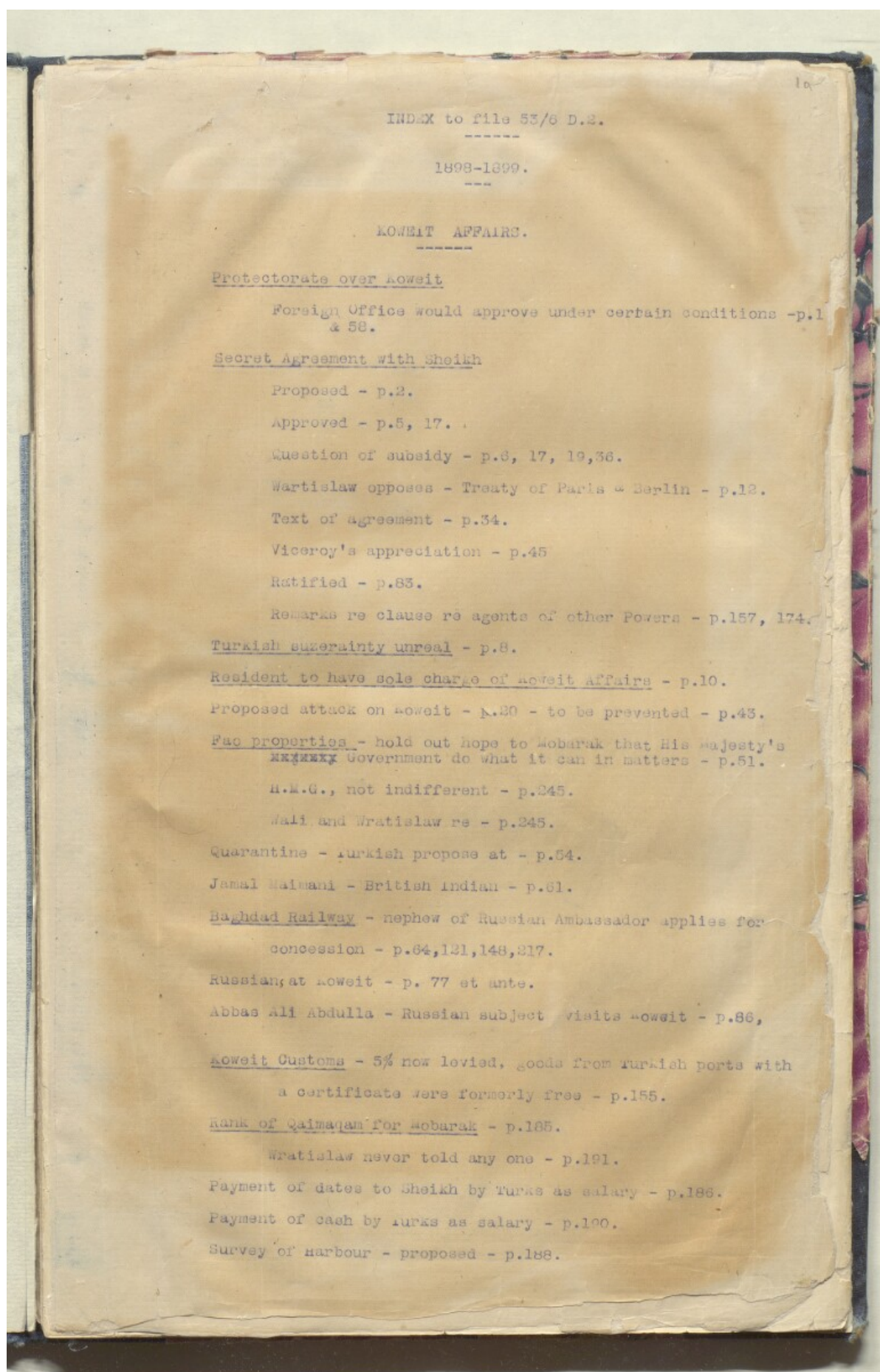
The file also contains detailed correspondence regarding a scheme, proposed by a Russian named Count Kapnist, to construct a railway line between Tripoli and Kuwait.

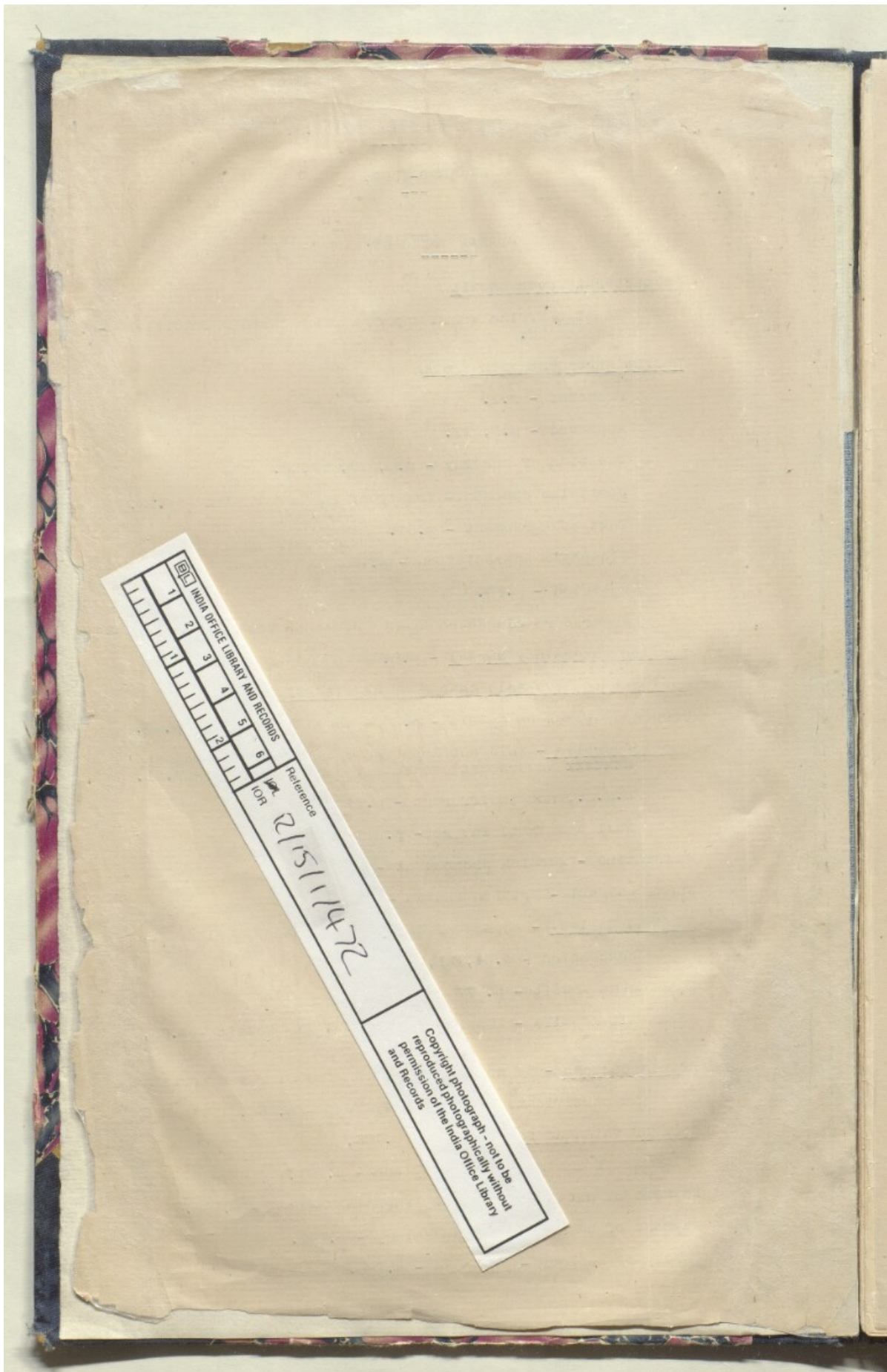


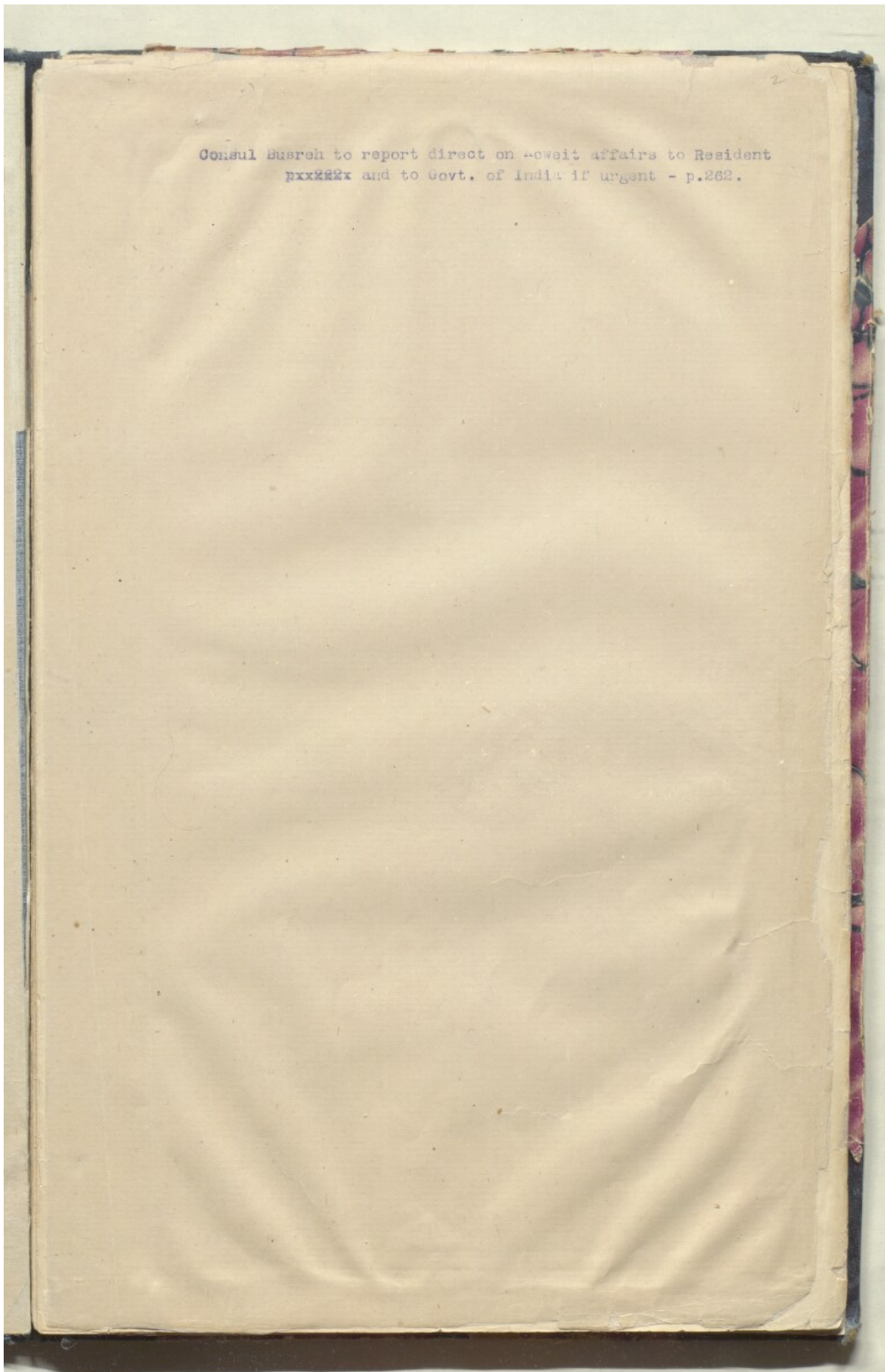




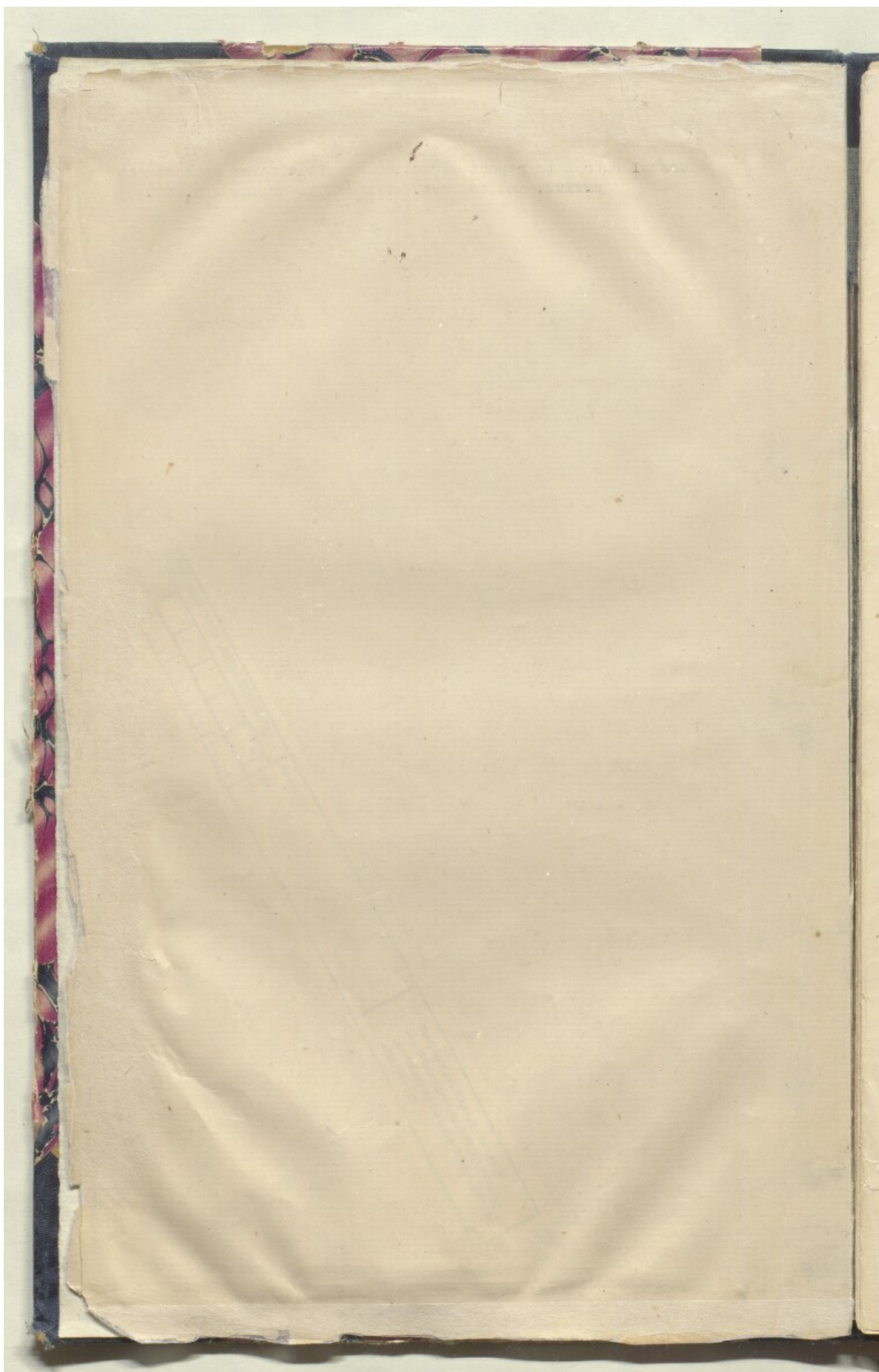


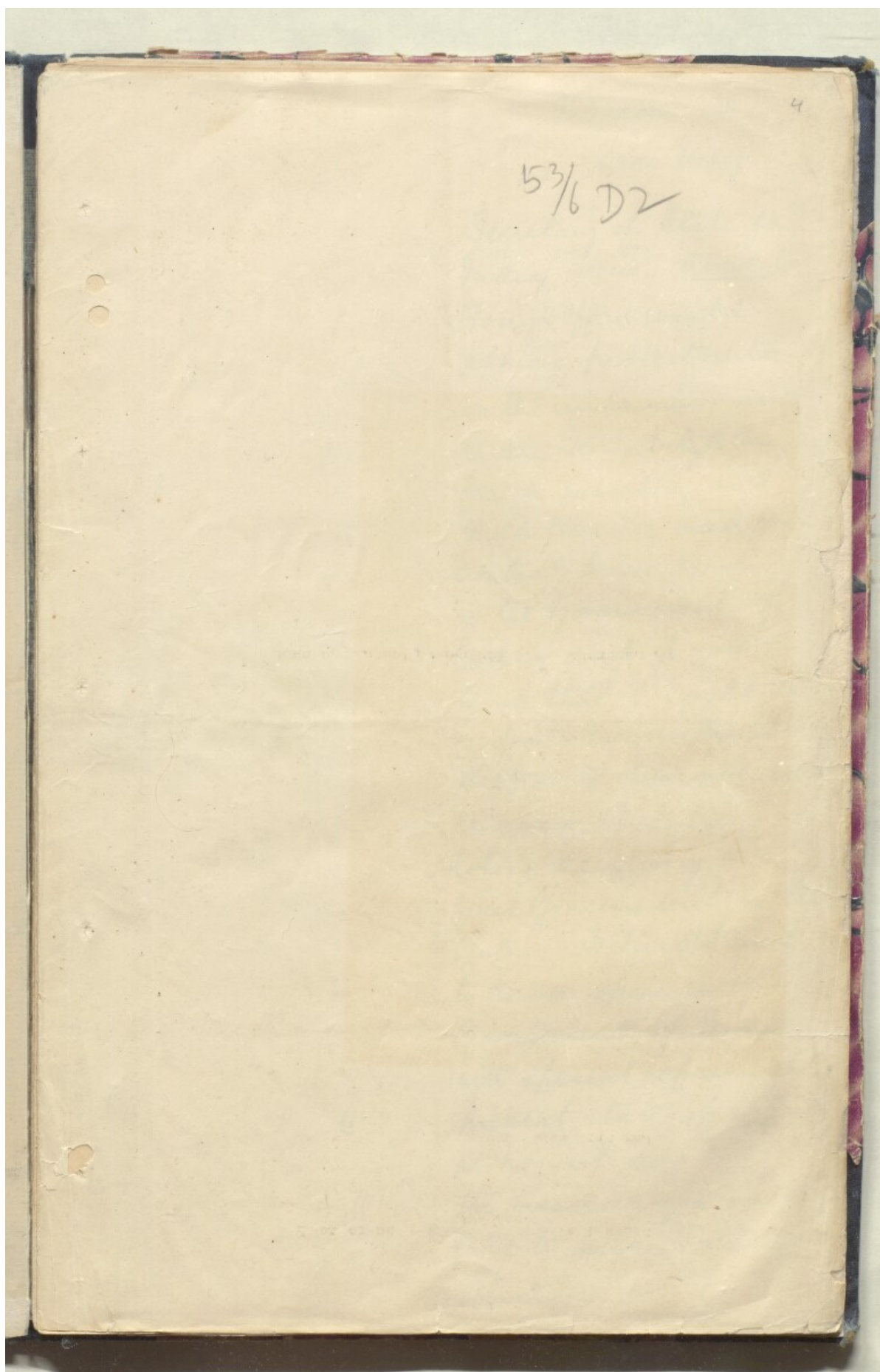


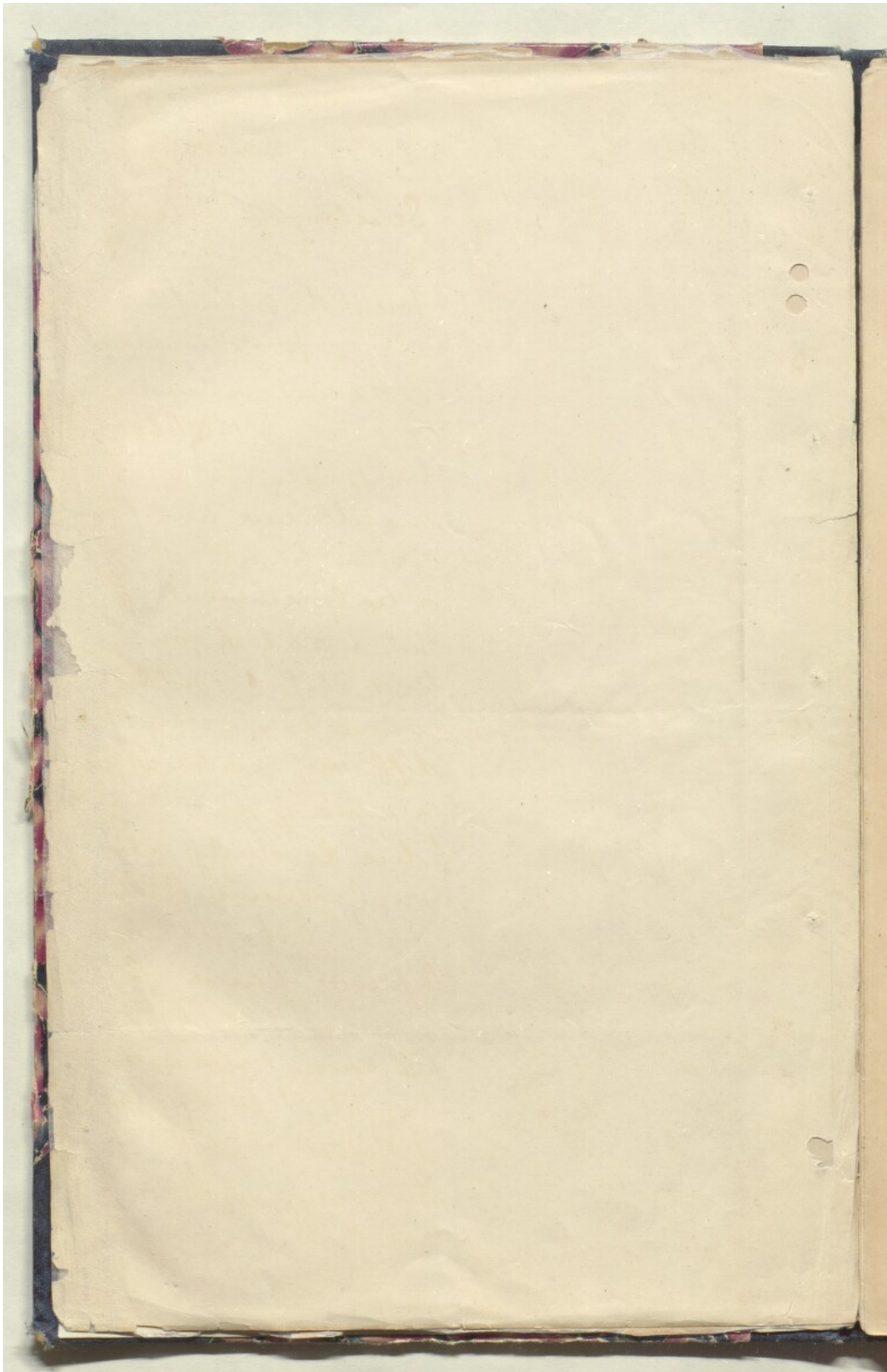




Consul Busreh to report direct on Koweit affairs to Resident
~~xxxxxx~~ and to Govt. of India if urgent - p.262.









Telegram 00001 5

From Foreign

Secretary of State for
India ~~begs~~. Koweit

Foreign Office would
approve protectorate
on the understanding
that responsibilities
for its assertion and
maintenance and for
control have devolved
on the Government of
India and if you
think that it could be
undertaken without
difficulty or inconvenient
extension of duties
police devolving on
your Government in the
Gulf. I should wish
to know opinion of
Government of India
with special reference to
present state of affairs
at Koweit and to
the measures you could
take to make Protectorate
effective

(i)

(ii)



Relay on Her Majesty's
Government for
diplomatic support
at Constantinople. Ends.

Please report
and communicate
Copy of this telegram
to the Resident in
Turkish Arabia for
similar report
29/12/98

Following sent by
letter in cypher to
Poll: Resident in
Turkish Arabia
Bagdad

"Following telegram
from Foreign begins

x x x

ends"

Sent by mail steamer
1/1/99. (J.) Meade

Consul at Busrah written to
5/1/99 (J.) Meade



Telegram 00002 6

To Foreign India

Your telegram about
Koweit — Please
refer to my letter no: 90
of 25th Sept. 1897 — stop —
I consider I had
better, if you approve,
visit Koweit without
delay & obtain the
information required
by Secretary of State.
I strongly recommend
before I go that I may
be authorised, as
preliminary to openly
acknowledged
Protectorate to enter
into secret arrangement
with Sheikh by which
he will be bound not
admit Protectorate
by any Power other
than Great Britain
and I suggest that
in return we agree
to support him against
all attacks



I understand Koweit
is sufficiently strong
to resist any attack
by land from other
Arabs or from present
Turkish force at
Busherah. & we can
stop force by sea with
the gunboats now
available.

If, however, a
Protectorate is decided
on, to make it effectual
our naval force in Gulf
should be temporarily
increased and I
recommend a cruiser
and a gunboat be sent
direct Bushire without
previous intimation
to Commanders of
intended duty.

I cannot communicate
in cypher with Resident
Turkish Arabia but will
send your message in
cypher by next mail



65003
and will also ascertain
from Consul Busch
what force available
there. As prompt
action may be necessary,
I am inclined to think
it is better not to
await reply from
Resident Turkish
Arabia which will
take some time and
may not be much use.

If we do not admit
Turkish rights at Koweit,
Resident Persian Gulf
seems best able to
deal with questions
regarding the place
(ed) Meade

30/12/98



Confidential D/o.

Bushie

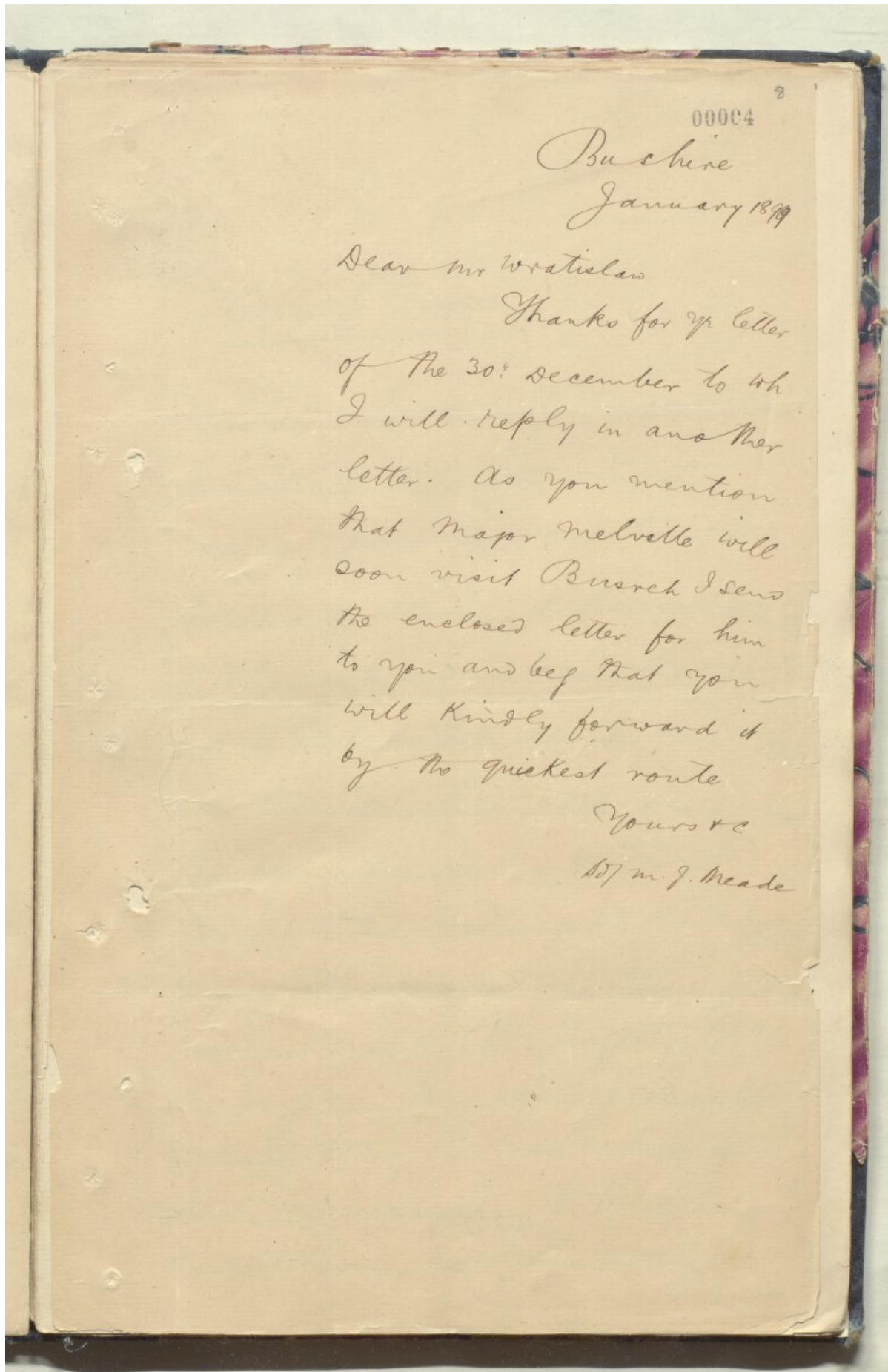
3rd Jan^y 1899.

Dear Mr Bratislaw,

Kindly let me know
as soon as you can by
post any information
you may have gathered
about Koweit and
about the strength of the
Turks at Bushieh. I
should be very glad
to receive your views.

I need not ask you
to keep this letter
very confidential

Yours sincerely
(sd). M. J. Meade



00004

Bushire

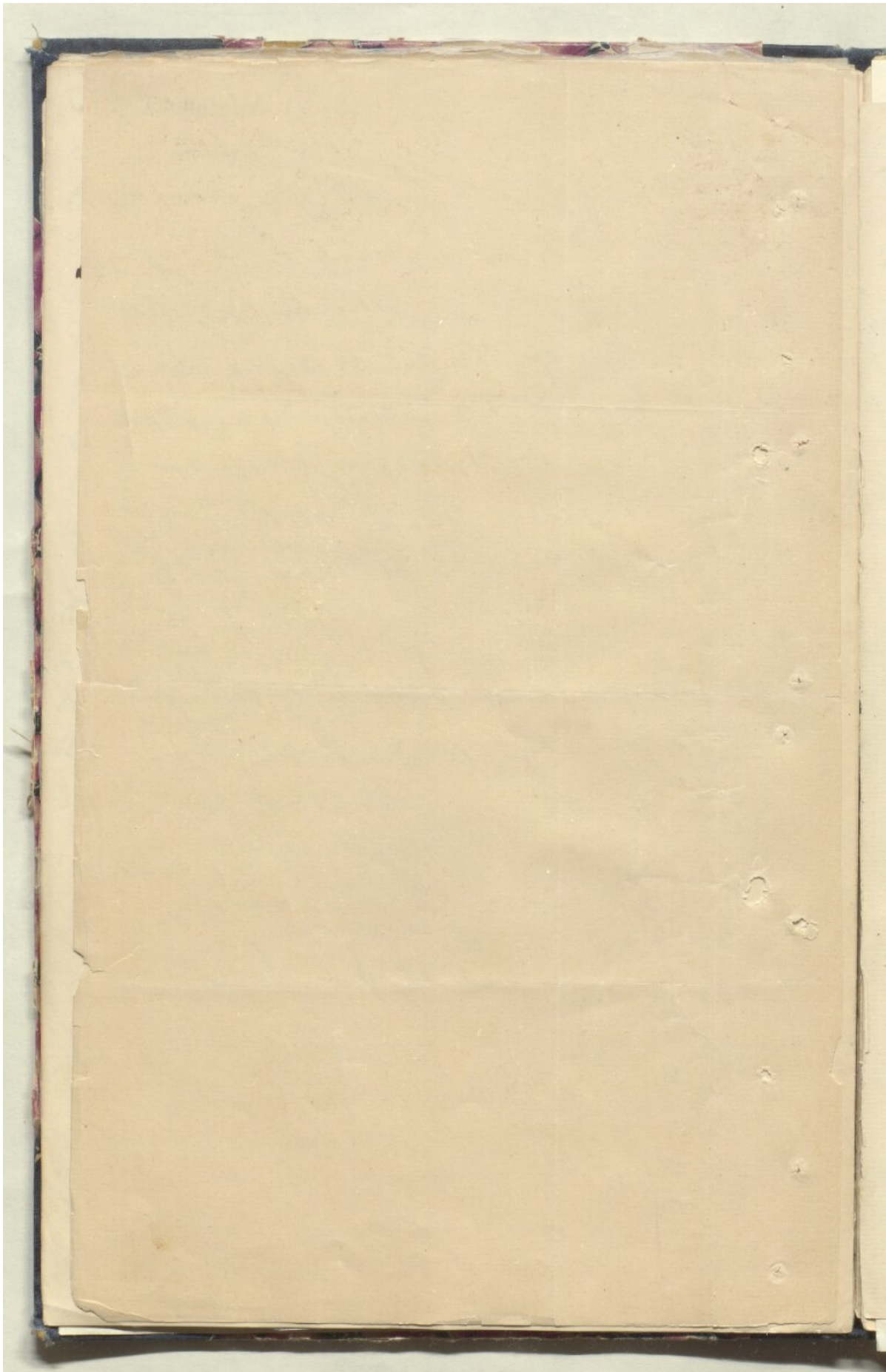
January 1899

Dear Mr Wratishaw

Thanks for yr letter
of the 30th December to wh
I will reply in another
letter. As you mention
that Major Melville will
soon visit Busrah I send
the enclosed letter for him
to you and beg that you
will kindly forward it
by the quickest route

Yours &c

M. J. Meade





00005



Telegram: Foreign

Koweit - Government desire to take immediate steps (with utmost secrecy possible in order to avoid suspicion & attaching to open protestations) to obtain an engagement from Sheikh not to ~~cede~~, ~~lease~~, mortgage or otherwise alienate or give for occupation of any portion of his territory to the Government or subjects of any other Power without obtaining the previous consent of Her Majesty's Gov^t for this purpose. They are prepared to offer £5000/- or even more if absolutely necessary to Sheikh. Please telegraph ~~very~~ immediately how (you



propose to effect this negotiation,
and if you go to Koweit whether you
are going in Lawrence or in a
man of war, also whether present
Naval Force in Gulf is sufficient -

Foreign

Received. morning 8th Jan^y 99



Telegram 00006¹⁰

To Foreign

Koweit. Your telegram
I propose going myself
in Laurence ostensibly
for the purpose of
enquiring into the arms
traffic and can arrange
trip without exciting
remark as I have
given out I intend
going to shoot at Raiz
island from which I
will go by night to Koweit.

I will start on hearing
from you and will
negotiate agreement
which should be made
binding on present
Sheikh's successors
as well as on himself.

As regards terms, however,
I would venture to
suggest that instead
of sum down, I may be
authorised to arrange
yearly subsidy conditional
on scrupulous observance
of the terms by Sheikhs
of Koweit.



A limit of say £1000
a year being given me.

I also think I may
be allowed to tell
Sheikh Mobarik that
he may count on our
good offices as long
as he adheres to his
agreement, for, if
the other claimants
to the Sheikhship
overcome Mobarik,
they may not consider
themselves bound
by the agreement with
him, while, if he
has our support, he
will probably easily
hold his own.

As only secret agreement
is contemplated, it
seems at present
inadvisable to attract
attention to this part
of the Gulf and no
increase of naval force
here is necessary but
if gunboat required
Muskat, she should



to from India and
a cruiser may be in
readiness at Karachi
or Bombay with
orders to come at once,
if summoned by
telegram

(H) Meade
8/1/99.

No: 1. To Foreign
India
Dt. 7th Jan^y 1899.

Sir,

I have the h. to ack:
the receipt of your secret
tel^m about Koweit wh:
reached me on the 29th
Dec: 1898. — To this I
replied by telegram on
the following day and
I am now awaiting
your further instructions
as to the steps which
should be taken —

2. I think that,
if a Protectorate is
decided on, the



Necessary steps to carry it out should be taken without delay, as otherwise we may find ourselves forestalled by one of the other great Powers.

If this happens, we will undoubtedly be compelled to take energetic action, which may then be too late.

3. A Protectorate over Koweit will be very beneficial to our interests in the Persian Gulf.

Koweit possesses many natural advantages & may, at any time, become a place of great importance. —

The Turks profess to have a suzerainty over it but I am of opinion that their claims have no real foundation & that an effective



openly declared ¹² 00008
Protectorate on our
part should outweigh
any claims they may
advance.

4. I am anxious
to visit the place
& report to the Govt
of India if there
will be much difficulty
in asserting &
maintaining our
protection. The Sheikh
informed Mulgaski,
my assistant, who
went to Koweit in
September 1897, that
he has a large number
of followers and can
repulse any attack
by land. I will, in the
first place, enquire
carefully into the
correctness of this
statement & also into
the present state of



affairs at Koweit.
I will also further, for
the information of
the Govt of India, ascertain
what measures will
be necessary to make
a Protectorate effective.

The gunboats which
the Govt of India have
already in the Gulf
are ample to prevent
any attack being made
by sea by any naval
force which is likely to
be brought against the
place, but I am not
quite sure if they
would suffice to secure
it against a land
attack & it is on
this point that I
would like to satisfy
myself before I submit
the report you ask for.

5. In any case, it
will, I consider, be
desirable to strengthen,
as a temporary measure,



our Naval Force in the ^{00009 13}
Gulf, if a Protectorate
is decided on, & I
have, therefore, in
my telegram of the
30th ultimo, recommended
that a cruiser & a
gunboat should be
sent to Basrah,
where instructions
will await the
Commanders.

6. I intend going to Koweit
in such a way that my
visit may excite as
little remark as
possible but, as it will
probably be impossible
to keep my movements
quite secret, it is, I
think, desirable that
I should be authorised
to assure the Sheikh of
our protection, if he
brinds himself not to
admit a protectorate
by any other Power.
Unless I can do this,



the fact of my going to
Koweit may do harm,
as it may precipitate
some action in regard
to the place on the
part of the Turks or
of some other power.

7. I have sent on
your telegram in cypher
to the Resident, Turkish
Arabia by mail, as I
cannot communicate
with him in cypher
by the Turkish telegraph
lines & also asked the
Consul at Busrah to
let me know of any
movements there may
be among the Turkish
forces at that place.
Any information I
receive will be telegraphed
to you & I wd venture
to recommend that
a report from Major
Melville, the officiating
Resident should not
be waited for to decide



00010 '4

if a Protectorate is
to be undertaken.

I trust that matters
concerning Koweit
may be conducted
entirely through the
Resident in the
Persian Gulf within
whose political charge
it is situated, if, as
will be necessary, we
refuse to admit the
claims of the Turks
to it & regard it as
a portion of the Arabian
Peninsula on the
shores of the Persian
Gulf

(J?) Meade

7/1/99.

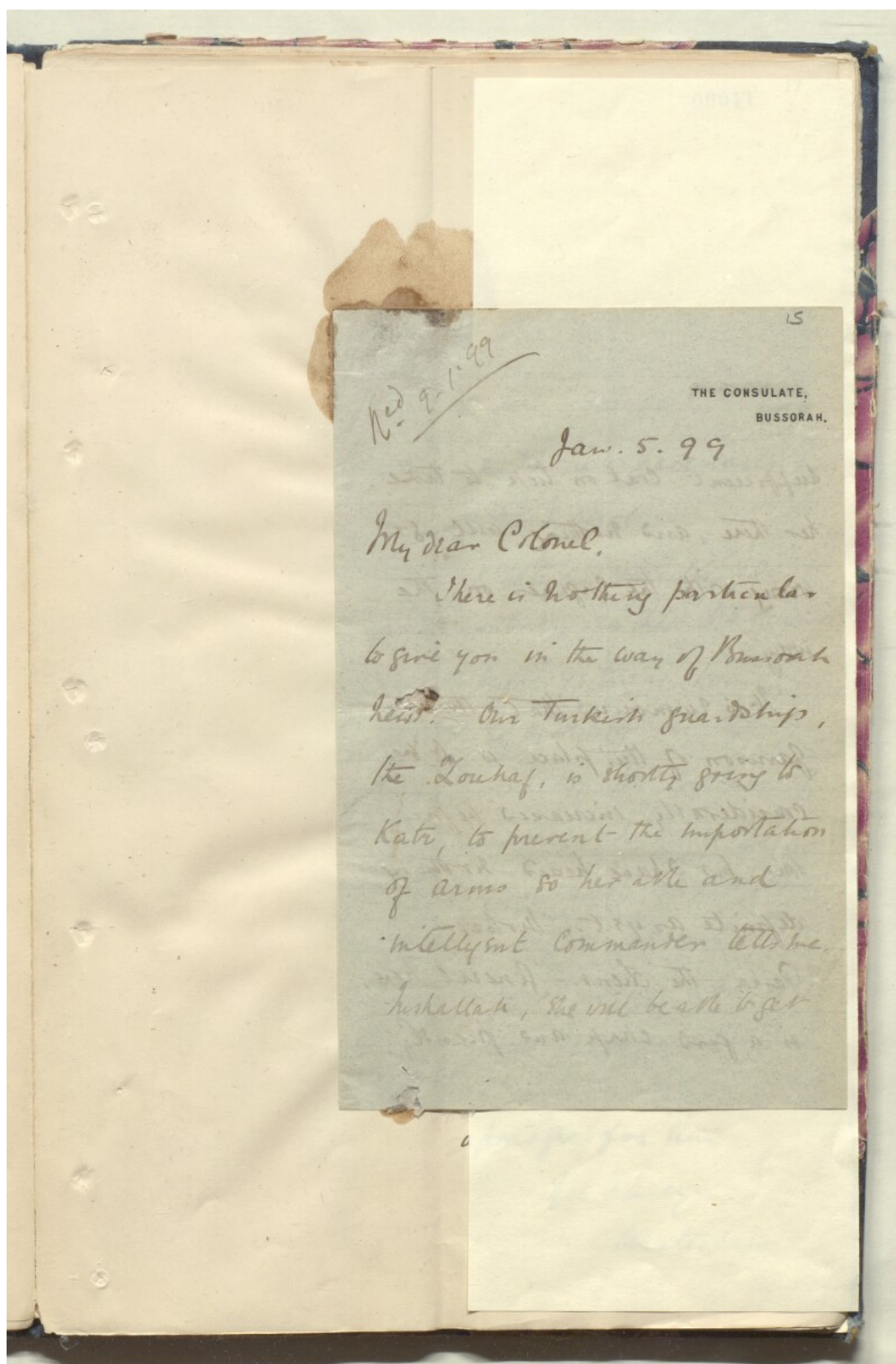


Telegram

To Foreign

Koweit. Consul Busch
informs me Turkish
Corvette proceeds
shortly to Gulf and
that it is rumoured
garrison at Busch
will be largely
increased before
long. Meade.

Sent 10/1/99.

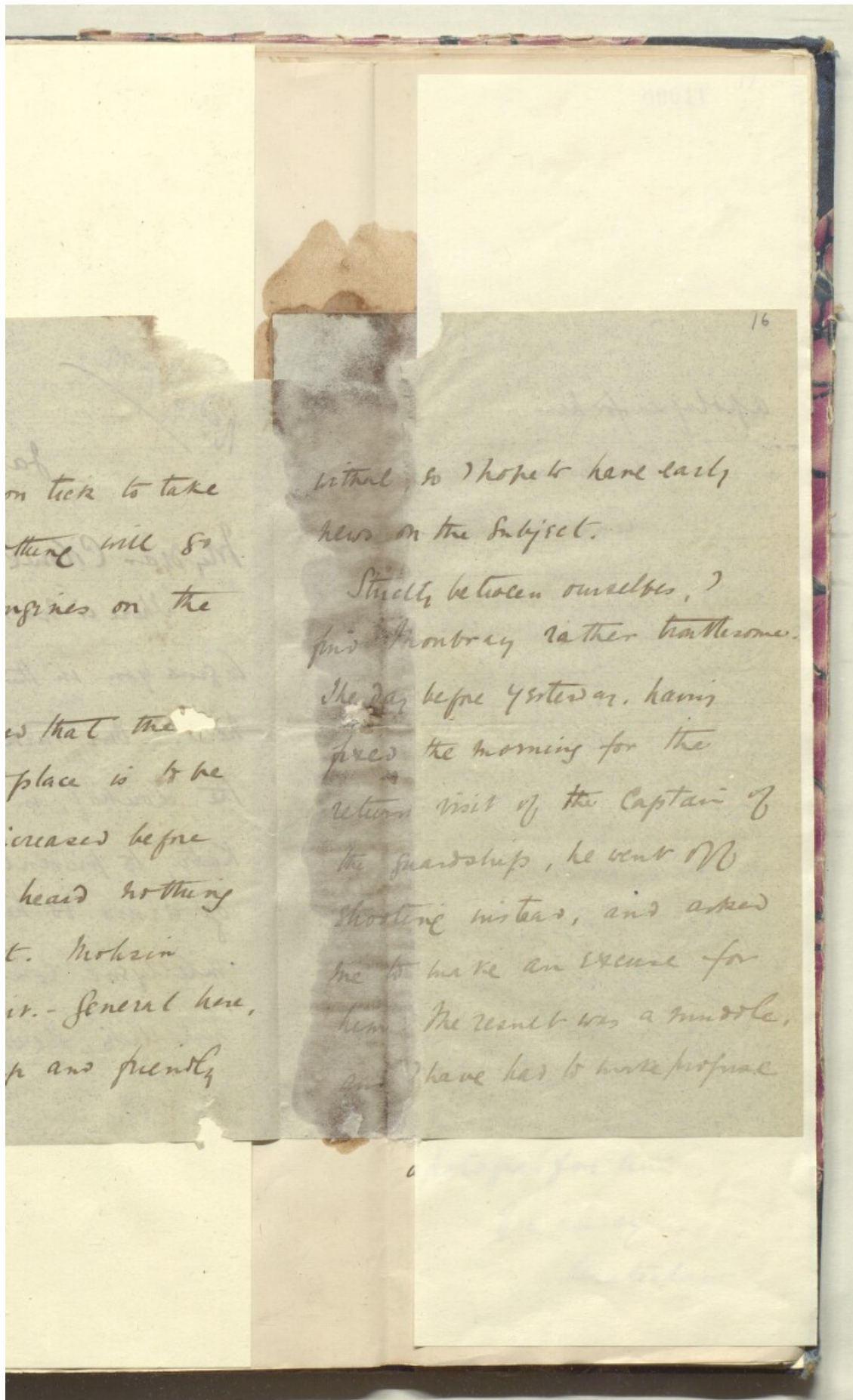




THE CONSULATE
BUSRAH

PP 3
sufficient coal on tick to take
her there, and nothing will go
wrong with the engines on the
way.

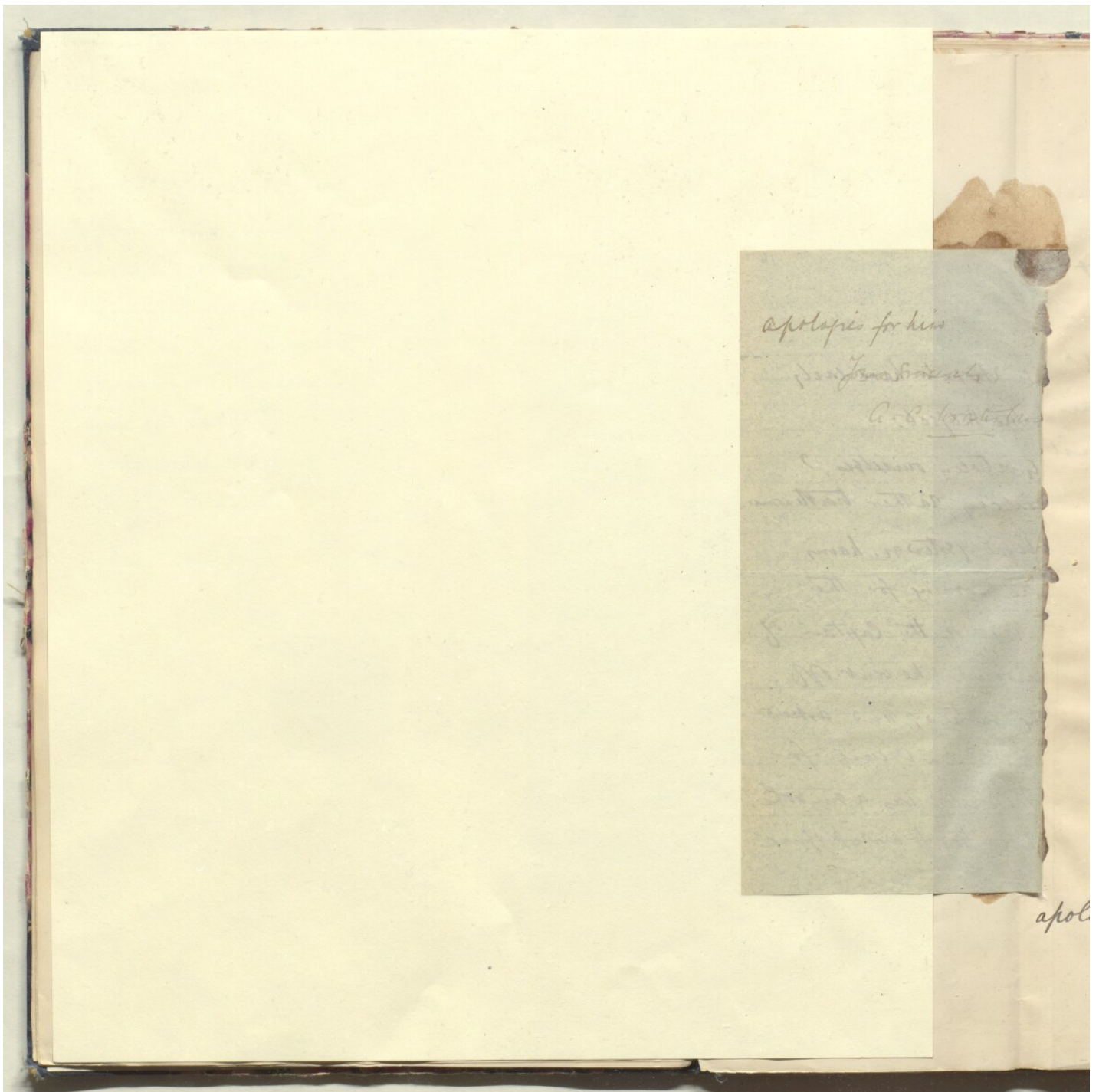
It is rumoured that the
garrison of this place is to be
considerably increased before
long, but I have heard nothing
definite as yet. Mohsin
Pasha, the Lieut.-General here,
is a good chap and friendly

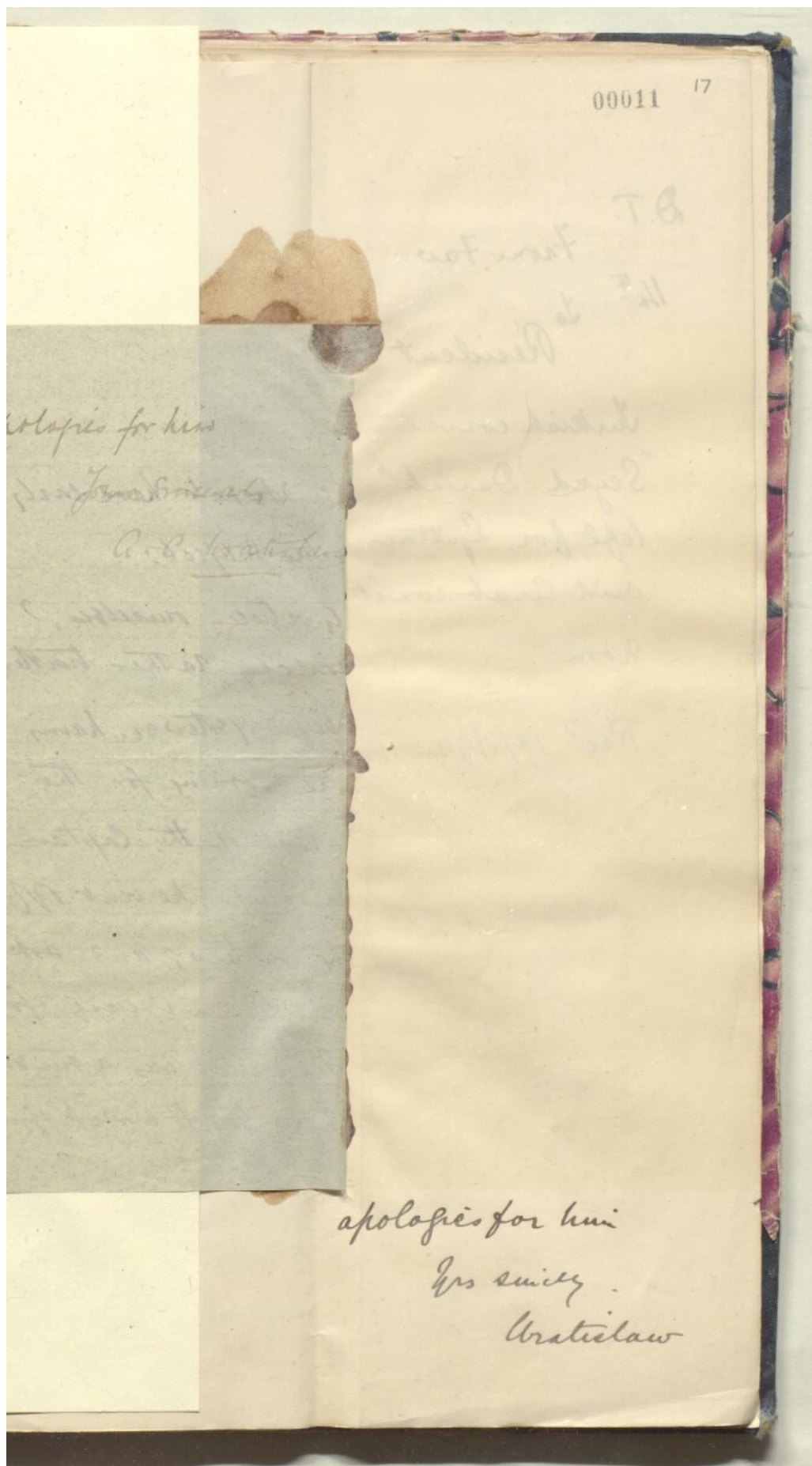


on tick to take
there will be
engines on the
is that the
place is to be
increased before
heard nothing
t. Mohsin
ir. - General here,
p and friendly

without, so I hope to have early
news on the subject.

16
Strictly between ourselves, I
find Montrey rather troublesome.
The day before yesterday, having
fixed the morning for the
return visit of the Captain of
the guardship, he sent Mr
Shooting master, and asked
me to make an excuse for
him. The result was a muddle,
and I have had to write profuse







D.T.
From Fao
14th To
Resident

Turkish corvette
"Seyed Dariah"
left for Guttur
and Arab coast
noon

Rec^d. 15/1/99.

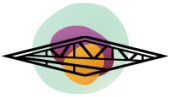


09012

19

Barrack. Jan 13. 1899

Dear Colonel Meade, met of yesterday at
 Barrack. I know very little about Koweit as yet,
 only that the Kato people have some vengeance
 on the British and are endeavoring to get allies from
 the Persians to help them against him e.g. from
 the Persians. The Turks have, or think they have,
 succeeded in persuading them to keep quiet for the present,
 as this reference has been made to Constantinople.
 I think we must be very careful in our relations with Koweit.
 If we declare a protectorate over the
 place, I think the Turks would appeal to
 the other Powers who signed the Treaty of
 Paris & Berlin to stop that they would
 call.



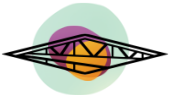
the spoliation of their territory. It is true that
we have never recognised their rights over Koweit,
but they assert them all the same and Europe
would not always be decided the question all alone.
Pending the diplomatic decision of the Powers,
Turkey would have troops there and would
very likely attack Bahrain and the Persian Gulf.
We protect them effectively? I think not, as
Koweit is quite open from the land side. Of
course we could attack other parts of the
Turkish Empire and if left alone would
soon reduce the Sultan to reason. But
should we be left alone? I think not.



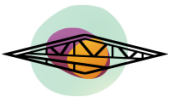
00013
19

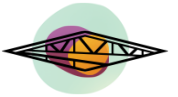
I certainly think it would be very rash on our part to take any step without well weighing the probability of our being obliged to climb down ignominiously afterwards. The British public does not like the idea of a European war in order to acquire a protectorate over Koweit, though it might see the necessity of fighting in order to prevent others getting a foothold in the Gulf. The Turks would be bound to resist a step which would mean a deadly blow to their influence in Arabia.

As for troops, we have still the 4 battalions and a battery of (Arab)



note by me previously. It is reported that our
fashion is to be very largely increased, but
the General here absolutely denies this.
I have not found time to write before
properly, being so busy with the Consulate
here. I have settled all my business
with Belville in the most friendly fashion.
I will write again, but must leave
this scrawl.
In very great haste,
Yours sincerely,
C. P. Thomas
(initials for further)





write to you previously. It
reported that our garrison
is to be very largely
increased, but the General
here absolutely denies this.
I have ~~now~~^{not} found time
to write to you properly,
being so busy with the
Comet here. I have
settled all my business
with Melville in the most
friendly fashion. I will
write again next mail

Yours
W. W. W. W.

To
Major Melville
Offs Resident T. A.
Bagdad.



wrote to you previously. It
is reported that our garrison
is to be very largely
increased, but the General
here absolutely denies this.

I have ^{not} found time
to write to you properly,
being so busy with the
"Comet" here. I have
settled all my business
with Melville in the most
friendly fashion. I will
write again next mail

Couff

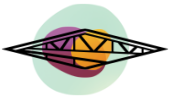
Bushire. 21

18/1/99.

Dear Major Melville

I send you a cylinder of
the Govt of India by post
through the Consul at
Bussrah, & hope it reached
you safely.

Please let me know. I
also be very glad to get
your views about the
possibilities of a British
Protectorate over Koweit, &c.



wrote to you previously. It
is reported that our garrison
is to be very largely
increased, but the General
here absolutely denies this.

I have ~~now~~^{to} found time
to write to you properly,
being so busy with the
"Comet" here. I have
settled all my business
with Mcbrill in the most
friendly fashion. I will
write again next mail.

Yours sincerely

(sd) A. C. Wratishlaw

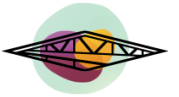
Bussrah, & hope it reached
you safely.
Please let me know. I wd
also be very glad to get
views about the
practicability of a British
Protectorate over Koweit, &c.



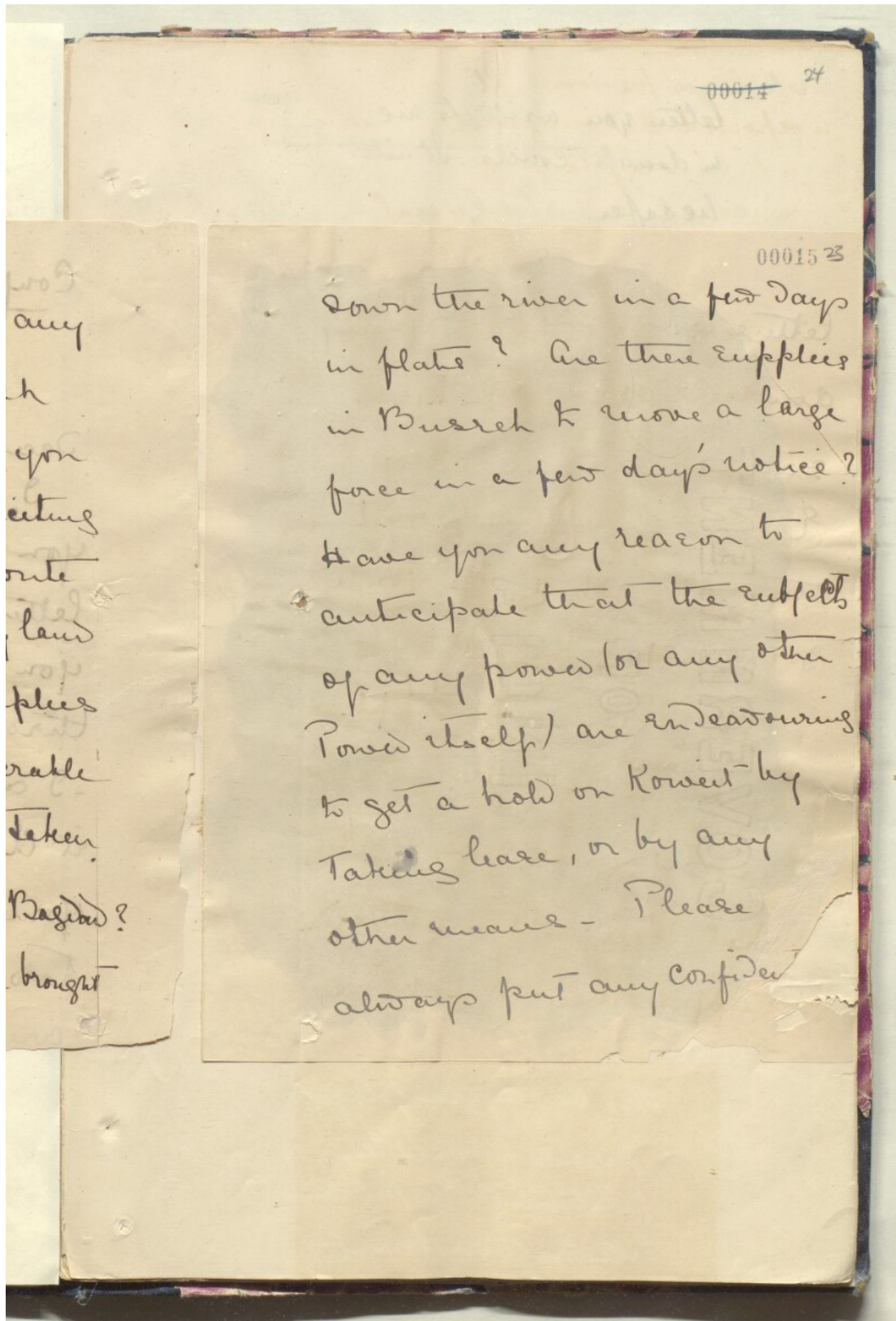
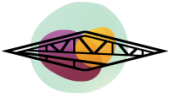
Confidential

Buckire
18th Jan'y 99

Dear Mr. Wratishaw
I am much obliged to
you for your interesting
letter of the 13th. I suppose
you delivered the cover I sent
through you to Major Melville.
I ask as you do not refer to
it directly, though I gather from
your letter that Major Melville
told you what the views of Gov^t
are. Please let me know



as soon as you can of any
movements of Turkish
troops. Ascertain if you
can do so without exciting
attention what the route
fr. Busrah to Koweit by land
is like, if there are supplies
& water for any considerable
force, or if guns can be taken.
- What force is there at Bagdad?
I suppose they could be brought





letters you write to me
in double covers. It will
be safer.

Excuse a hurried
letter as the mail is in
sooner than I expected

Yours sincerely
(sd). M. J. Meade



00016 25

Telegram to Foreign

Koweit. As it is rumoured nephew
may at any time
~~the~~ ~~attack~~ attack Mobarik assisted

by Sheikh Arab Coast & ^{perhaps} ^{When I go should} ^{comma} ³
by Turko ^{perhaps} I had better first

ascertain state of affairs, & report

Mobarik's ^{actual} ~~real~~ position before we
^{enter into negotiations with him -}
~~conduct any~~ ~~business~~ ^{may perhaps} ~~might~~ be

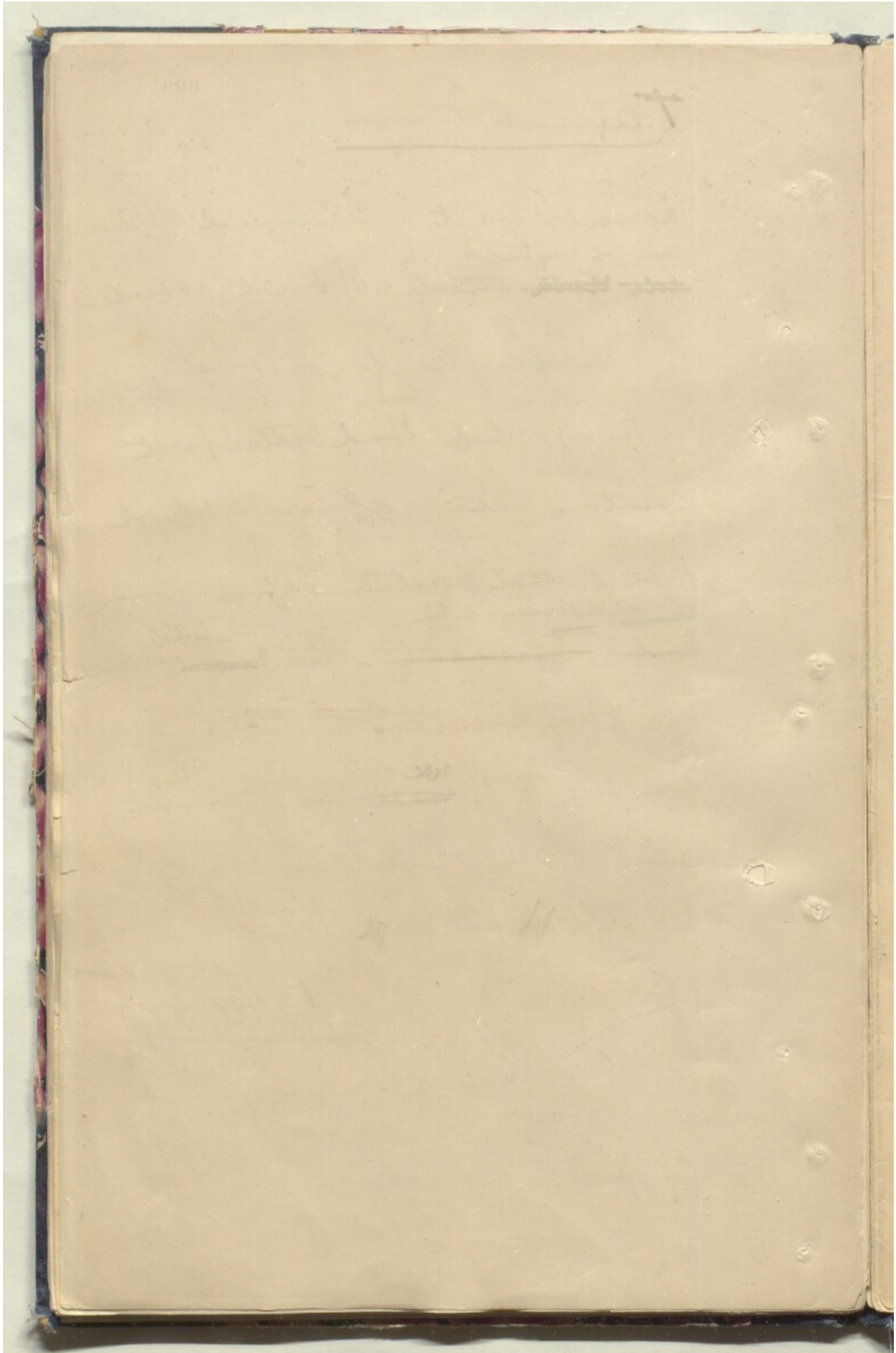
left to my discretion -

Eventually Turko ^{will} ~~must~~ ^{must} hear something

and will resent whatever we do -

we must ~~be~~ ~~prepare~~ ~~for~~ ~~this~~ - ^{mean}

17/1/99





from Foreign

26

00017

you sh^d now proceed to Koweit
and unless you are satisfied that
Mobarik is in imminent danger
of attack supported by the Turks or
is in precarious position you should
enter into secret agreement with
him, on model of agreement with
Mushkat of 20th March 1891, ^{but} in the
more precise terms ~~granting~~ of my
telegram of the 8th of January, binding
the Sheikh & his heirs and successors -
you ^{can} also assure him of our good
offices as long as he adheres to the
agreement. we rather prefer a
lump payment to an annual
subsidy; but we leave it to your discretion.
Sum hitherto proposed in either case
seems to us excessive as Sheikh



will probably jump at agreement. If
you promise annual subsidy, &
3000 Rupees w^d perhaps ~~be~~ suffice,
but you must exercise your
judgment in the matter -

19/1/99

Foreign



Confidential

Bushme 27
00018
19-1-99

My dear Sir William Cunningham
I have just received yr
telegram about Koweit, & have
arranged to go there tomorrow -
I thought it best to let you know that
the Wahabees, aided by the El Khat
Mekkeles, may ere long make a descent
on the place, & unless we are prepared
to aid Mobarik, we may find that
we have backed the wrong horse -
I wish to satisfy myself as to the state
of affairs at Koweit -
Mobarik told Gardin in Sept 97
that he could put 25000 fighting
men in the field !!! I doubt if this
is true, & wd like to know for certain
what he can do to defend himself
if attacked - I think we are doing
quite right to secure Koweit. If we
don't the Turks may be able over what



rights they profess to have to some one
else, & that will be a serious matter
for us. But I am fully alive to the fact
that however careful I may be
(& you may be sure that the utmost
secrecy has been & will be observed)
some inkling may get out of our
negotiations with Mobarak. In that
case the Turks may determine
to really support the nephews, &
we will have to support him unless
we are prepared to let any money we
give him be lost - & our own
prestige lowered. It was on this account
that I suggested a yearly subsidy
instead of a lump sum down -
as the former would be equally acceptable
by the other side if they turn out
Mobarak, while money given
him will go into his hands if he is
defeated. However as the Govt.



00013
 or prefer to pay him down I will do
 my best to arrange for that, & if
 we also promise him our good offices
 I think he will no doubt give us the
 agreement for much less than
 £5000/-

The other point for consideration seems
 to be whether we can & will protect
 him if the Turks attack him -
 Koweit is about 80 miles from Basrah,
 & is on the south side of the Bay -
 we can of course easily prevent any
 attack by sea, but I am not sure if our
 gun boats can defend the town on the
 land side, if the Turks send a
 force from Basrah - they have at
 present ^{1 Battery & 4 regiments of infantry} many troops
 but can easily add to their number by
 bringing more from Baghdad, & will
 probably mass a force there, as a threat
 to Koweit if they think we leave

+ 1 Battery
 4 Light Infantry



designs on the place. We can no doubt bring
the Turks to reason if left to themselves.
But the question is if the other Powers
will allow us to do so, & pending the diplomatic
action, what will have to be taken can we
prevent the Turks from effectually aiding
M's enemies, & turning him out.
This may require a force being sent to
India, & it is to this possibility that
I referred in my last telegram.
I think we can probably hold him
down against any attack by other Arabs,
& I hope to be able to conclude
the agreement with him on favourable
terms. But after that we may have
difficulties, & may have to increase
our strength in the P.E. I will
send you a report as soon as the
agreement is concluded. I have
not yet heard what has been
said. I think that the time
has come for taking these steps.



but I may mention that ⁰⁸⁰²⁰²⁴about
a month ago his ^{the head}maleson of ^{an}
Armenian (British Protected) firm
here called & asked me if I wd
advise him to try & purchase land
at Koweit. I told him that I
cd give no advice on the subject, but
it is clear that there is a growing
idea of the importance of the
place, & we will do well to secure
it as soon as we can -
I recommended that the management
of Koweit Political affairs
shd be left with the Resident
here because it is in the R.E.
& to close to Basrah. The
Turks will not take on Ceylan
Tels on their lines, & it takes
some time to communicate with
the Resident at Bagdad - I don't



think either that Maj^r Melville
can have learnt much about
it in the short time that he
has been at Bagdad. Col Sacl
has written one p^r home & I
hope to see him on his way off
in March. His views are the
same as mine.

There is one other matter worth
sought to draw y^r attention
& that is that there may
be some difficulty about lands
& Gardens, which Sheikh Mubarak holds
in the Basrah Dist. The Turkes say
& probably will, seize them
if he comes under our protection.
& we will have to consider
the question of compensation.
The matter is not one of much



00021 30

importance last now; but will
come up later on -

Yes
Urmenche

19/1/99

Telegram

To Minister

Private. I am going tomorrow
to Koweit under orders of
Indian Govt. & shall
afterwards visit
Mohammerah. Please
keep all important questions
till I return in a week.

19/1/99 Meade.

Telegram

To Foreign

I am going Koweit today.
Please send copy Arabic
version of agreement made
by Sultan of Muskat
in 91. None here or at



Muskat where it may
be useful.
20/1/99. Meade



Communication

00622

to the brother of Sheikh Mubarak
on the 22nd Jan^y 99.

The great Gov^t of Gr^t Britain
have heard through me of the
Sheikh's wish to receive the
advantages of British protection
such as are enjoyed by various
Arab sultans & sheikhs, &
the great Gov^t have authorised
me to enter into certain
agreements with Sh: Mubarak.

In view of the relations
between the Ottoman Gov^t
(with whom the British Gov^t is on
friendly terms) & the Sheikhs of
Koweit, it is not considered
desirable just now to openly
declare that the British will
take Koweit under their
protection but the great Gov^t
does not wish that Turkish
influence should be extended
further in Koweit or that any
other Power (than Great Britain)
should obtain the protection
of the place, or become
possessed of land ^{or} there.



The Great Govt. is therefore ready to enter into a secret engagement with Sheikh Mobarak by which he should at once bind himself not to have any relations with the representatives of any other Powers or to receive the Agents of any Power other than Great Britain at Koweit. He should agree not to cede, lease, mortgage, or otherwise alienate or give for occupation any portion of his territory to the Govt. or subjects of any other Power without obtaining the previous consent of H. M.'s Govt.

This agreement will have to be made binding not only on Sheikh Mobarak himself but also on his heirs & successors & H. M.'s Government is in return prepared to assist the Sheikh with money & to give him their good offices, should he require help.

H. B. Pencil note in Meade's handwriting

H.



Translation of Arabic

00023³²

"Bissim Allah Ta'alah Shanaho"

Praise be to God alone, At. In the name of God Almighty

The object of writing this lawful and honourable Bond is that it is hereby Covenanted and agreed between At Colonel M. Gordon John Meade, S. J. C. Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident on behalf of the British Government on the one part, and Sheikh Mubarik bin Sheikh Sabah Sheikh of Koweit on the other part that the said Sheikh Mubarik bin Sheikh Sabah of his own free will and desire does hereby pledge and bind himself his heirs and successors for ever not to receive the Agent or representative of any power or Government at Koweit, or at any other place within the limits of his territory without the previous sanction of the British Govt, and he further binds himself, his heirs & successors not to cede, sell, lease, mortgage, or give for occupation or for any other purpose any portion of his territory to the Government or Subjects of any other Power without the previous consent of Her Majesty's Government for those purposes. This engagement also to extend to any portion of the territory of the said Sheikh Mubarik which may now be



in the possession of the subjects of any other
Government.

In token of the conclusion of this lawful and
honourable Bond Lt Colonel Malcolm John
Heade I.S.C. Her Britannic Majesty's
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and
Sheikh Mubarik bin Sheikh Sabah, the
former on behalf of the British Govt and the
latter on behalf of himself, his heirs, &
successors do each in the presence of
witnesses affix their signatures on this
the tenth day of Ramazan 1316
corresponding with the twenty third day
of January 1899.

Signed. M. J. Heade Lt Col

Signed & sealed
Mubarik bin Sabah

{ witnesses }

{ }



Secret

00024

Translation of Arabic letter
from Lt. Col. M. J. Meade
Poll. Res^d Pers. Gulf.
to Sheikh Mubarak bin Subah.

A.C.

In view of the signing
to day of the agreement so happily
concluded between you, Sheikh
Mubarak bin Subah on behalf
of yourself, your heirs & your
successors, on the one part &
myself on behalf of H. B. M.'s
Govt. on the other part, I now
assure you as Sheikh of Koweit
of the good offices of the British
Govt. towards you & your heirs,
as long as you, your heirs &
successors scrupulously and
faithfully observe the conditions
of the said Bond.

The three copies of the Bond
will be sent to India to be
ratified by H. E. Lord Curzon of
Kedleston, H. B. M.'s Viceroy & G. G.
in Council &, on their return one
copy duly ratified will be conveyed
to you, when I will take measures
to send you as agreed a sum of



Rs 15 000 from the Persian
Treasury. A most important
condition of the execution of
this agreement is that it is to be
kept absolutely secret, & not
divulged or made public in
any way without the previous
consent of the British Govt

28/1/99. (sd) W. M. Meade.



To Foreign

00025

No 10 Df. 30/1/99.

Sir,

In continuation of recent secret telegraphic correspondence about Koweit, I have the honour to submit a report on the present position of affairs there for the information & orders of the G. of I.

2. On the receipt of your secret tel^m dt. 19/1/99, I arranged to leave Bushire in the R. S. M. S. Lawrence, & after visiting Kharaj island on the 20th, I arrived at Koweit on the morning of the 21st. I found a Turkish corvette, the "Zohaf" in the harbour; but decided not to alter my own plans on that account, & sent Lt. Comm^r. Kendall of the Lawrence with Mr Gaskin, Extra Asst. Res^{dt} who knows Arabic, to call on Sheikh



Inbarak bin Subah & tell him that I had come & would like to make his acquaintance.

3. The Sheikh expressed his pleasure at my arrival; but begged me to excuse his coming off to call, as, if he did, he w^d afterwards be obliged to visit Turkish men-of-war, wh: w^d expose him to considerable risk.

I was prepared for this & told Mr Gaskin to inform the Sheikh that I would not press him to come on board the "Laurence" but hoped he w^d send a confidential representative from himself to see me, as I had certain communications to make.

4. Accordingly, on the following morning, one of the Sheikh's brothers who have sided with him, Hamad Bin Subah, came off & had a private interview with me, during which I informed him that



25

Sheikh Inobarak's request to 00026
be brought within the sphere
of British influence had come
to the notice of H. M.'s Govt.,
who were prepared to have a
secret understanding with
him on certain conditions.

The terms of the proposed
agreement were then
carefully explained to
Sheikh Hamad, who said
that his brother would be
glad to comply with the wishes
of Govt.; but, at the same
time, he referred to the
fact that the family own
considerable property in
Turkish territory & expressed
a hope that the British Govt.
would promise to help them
in regard to those estates
which they may lose, if they
offended the Turks.

I told him that I was not
authorised to guarantee
any particular possessions



and w^d have to refer his request for orders. He then begged me to try & see Shaikh Mobarak himself & discuss the question direct with him.

Sheikh Hamad said he would inform his brother what the British Govt. required & he then returned to Koweit.

Mr Gaskin soon afterwards followed & had another interview with Mobarak.

5. I should here mention that enquiries I had made, immediately on my arrival, led me to think that there is no reason for anticipating an immediate attack being made on Sh: Mobarak, whose position was further described as more assured than it had previously been. I considered therefore that I ought to endeavour to carry out the instructions I had received & conclude the agreement with him as soon as I could.



2

received, & conclude the agreement
with him as soon as I could. —

6. The Turkish Corvette left Koweit
for Jao on the afternoon of the 22th
& as Mr. Gaskin on his return
reported that Sheikh Umbarik was
anxious to see me, I decided to
~~visit him~~ ^{and} the following morning.

7. Mr. Gaskin reported, that although
Umbarik was anxious to enter into
an agreement with the British Govt, in
he ~~was~~ not do so unless I gave him
a written assurance that he ~~was~~
receive our support afterwards, &
he also informed me that the
Sheikh ~~was~~ probably be glad to
receive Rs. 15,000 / equivalent to about
£1000 / in return for an engagement
not to sell, cede, lease ~~or~~ any
portion of his territory. I had
directed Mr. Gaskin to sound the
Sheikh



on this point.

8. I met Sheikh Umbarik on the 23rd Jan^y and showed him the agreement wh^{ch} I had previously prepared - 3 copies ^{of} duly signed by the Sheikh and myself accompany this letter to be ratified if approved by H.E. The Viceroy & Gov^t of India, and it will be seen that, in addition to the clause^s providing against cession, sale, lease, mortgage, &c of his territory, the Sheikh has bound himself not to receive representatives from other Powers.

- This condition appeared to me very desirable ^{Umbarik had} as ~~he~~ told Mr. Gaskin that he had received overtures fr^m the French, & I trust that it will be approved by the Gov^t of India.



37
00028

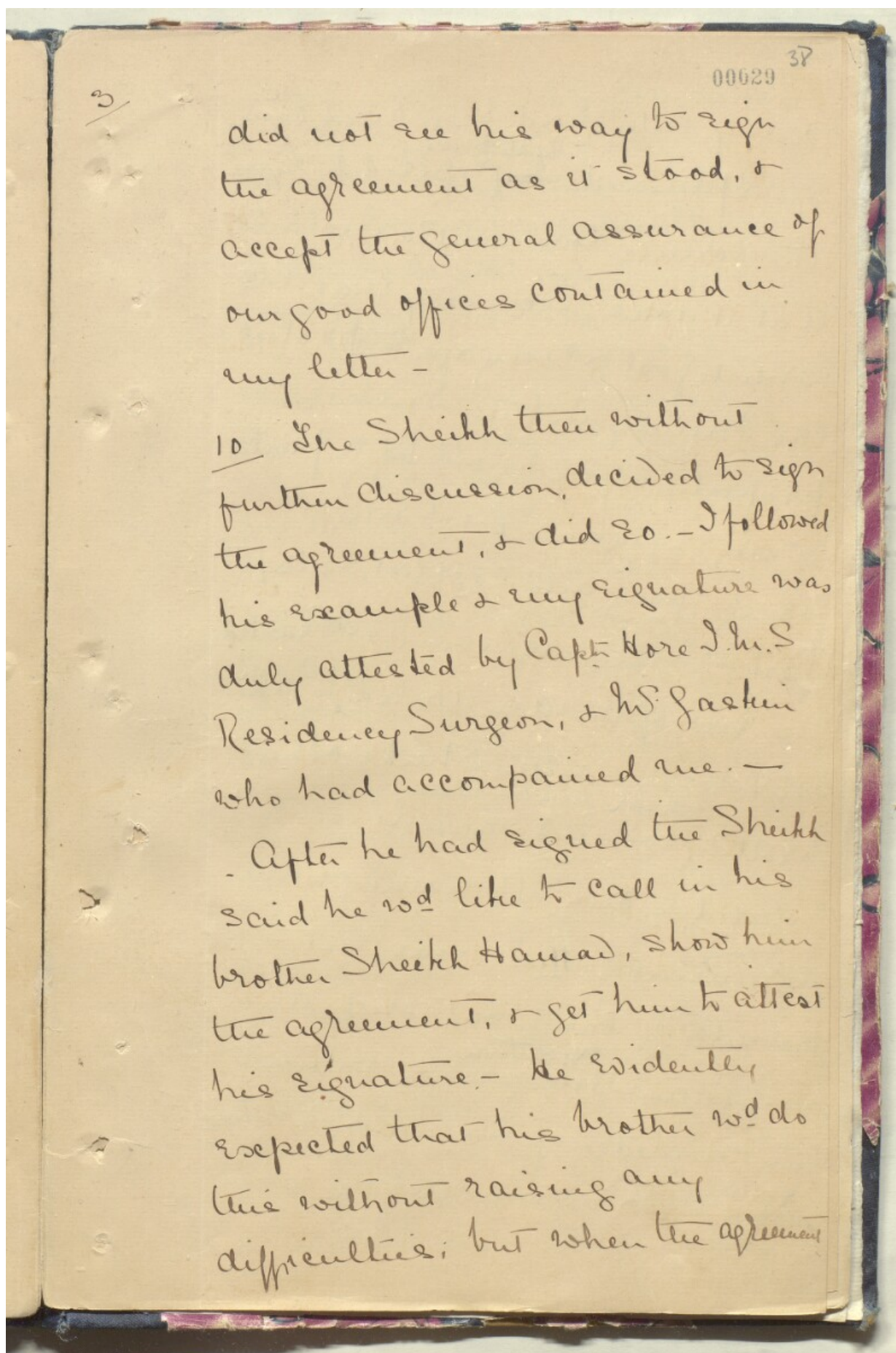
Q. At our interview Sheikh Lubarik, while expressing his great satisfaction at the prospect of an ^{understanding} ~~agreement~~ between himself & the British, for whom he declared that he had the utmost regard, said that before he signed an agreement which might get him into trouble with the Turkish Authorities, I ought to give him in writing a declaration of the intentions of the British Govt towards himself. ~~He asked for~~ ^{he said that} ~~he wished that~~ a definite promise of protection & assistance, especially in regard to the property belonging to his family, situated in Turkish Territory, ^{he declared that this assurance} ~~sd~~ form part of the document. ^{asked} ~~he was about~~



to sign. I informed him that the draft agreement I had prepared was similar to those executed ^{by} with other chiefs, & that I was not empowered to enter on its stipulations, binding the British Govt.

Subsequently, in view of the importance of the early conclusion of the negotiation with the Sheikh, I agreed to give him a letter, a translation of which accompanies, & I told him that my instructions did not admit of my promising anything more than is in it. —

As he still pressed for a guarantee being given that the British Govt would guard the family property in Turkish territory, I informed him I ~~was~~ ^{must} have to leave Koweit, and ask for fresh instructions, if he



3/ did not see his way to sign
the agreement as it stood, &
accept the general assurance of
our good offices contained in
my letter -

10 The Sheikh then without
further discussion, decided to sign
the agreement, & did so. - I followed
his example & my signature was
only attested by Capt. Hore J.M.S.
Residency Surgeon, & W. Gaskin
who had accompanied me. -

After he had signed the Sheikh
said he wd like to call in his
brother Sheikh Hamad, show him
the agreement, & get him to attest
his signature. - He evidently
expected that his brother wd do
this without raising any
difficulties; but when the agreement



& my letter had been read over,
 & explained, ^{Sheikh Hamud} ~~and~~ refused to sign
 the former document, & declared
 that it was necessary that the
 British Govt ^{sd} engage to protect
 the Family in their Turkish
 property, before he wd be a party
 to an engagement wh might
 bring them into conflict with the
 Turks. - A discussion, wh lasted
 the rest of the day, failed to alter
 this resolve, & the Sheikh's other
 brother, ^{Sheikh Jabir bin Sabah} took the same line, &
 refused to put his name on the
 agreement. - II. It was not
 possible to carry out such an
 important ^{negotiation} transaction without
 the knowledge of the Sheikh's brother,
 who had known all along of his

00630³⁹

It should facilitate the declaration of an open Protectorate later on, if H. M.'s Govt. decide to declare it, for it is, as far as I can ascertain, the first & only engagement ever executed between a Sheikh of Koweit & the Govt. of any country. It ought, therefore, to stand in the way of attempt by other Powers or their subjects



to gain a foothold in this important place.

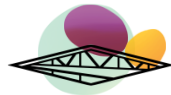
13. While, however, a decided advantage has been obtained by the conclusion of the agreement, it must be borne in mind that the fact that the Koweit family possess considerable estates in Turkish territory, complicates relations with them. — The Sheikh's brothers stated that, acc. to Turkish law, aliens cannot hold landed property in Turkey & they fear that, if they pass under the protection of the British Govt., the Turks will put this law in operation & deprive them of their estates, which form their chief source of revenue. They hesitate, therefore to commit themselves to a course, which may result in serious loss to themselves, unless they are assured of protection in regard to those estates. I told them that the Family wd. receive our good offices & that I myself thought these good offices wd.



40
00031

extend to all property belonging to its members, but that I c^d. not give any specific assurance as to the course wh: could be taken in regard to immovable property situated within the jurisdiction of another State.

14. Sh: Mobarak, himself, appeared to understand this, & to realize the advantage wh: will result to the Arab rulers of Koweit from having an understanding with the British Govt. — As long therefore as the agreement is kept secret, no difficulty is likely to arise; but the Turkish authorities are no doubt already aware of my visit to Koweit & their suspicions being aroused, they may decide to support the other claimants to the Sheikhship & try to dispossess Mobarak of his property near Fao. — I am informed that he has made alliances with various tribes in the interior of Arabia & he considers himself



quite secure as regards his position in the town of Koweit, which can, moreover, be defended by gunboats from the Harbour. There is not, therefore, much danger of an effective attack being made on the place itself.

I will however require instructions as to the course to be taken if the Turks confiscate the date gardens &c in the Buzreh district.

15. These estates were formerly a part of Koweit itself, & have gradually been absorbed by the Turks whose activity in these parts has greatly increased of late years. - If we assume a Protectorate over Koweit, H. M.'s Govt. may be able to arrange that the Sheikh's rights in these Properties are guaranteed to him.

If this is not feasible, some other course of diplomatic action will be necessary to ensure that the Family are not deprived of their revenues.

16. In view of this, I think I might be authorised to tell Sh. Inbarak & his



41
00032

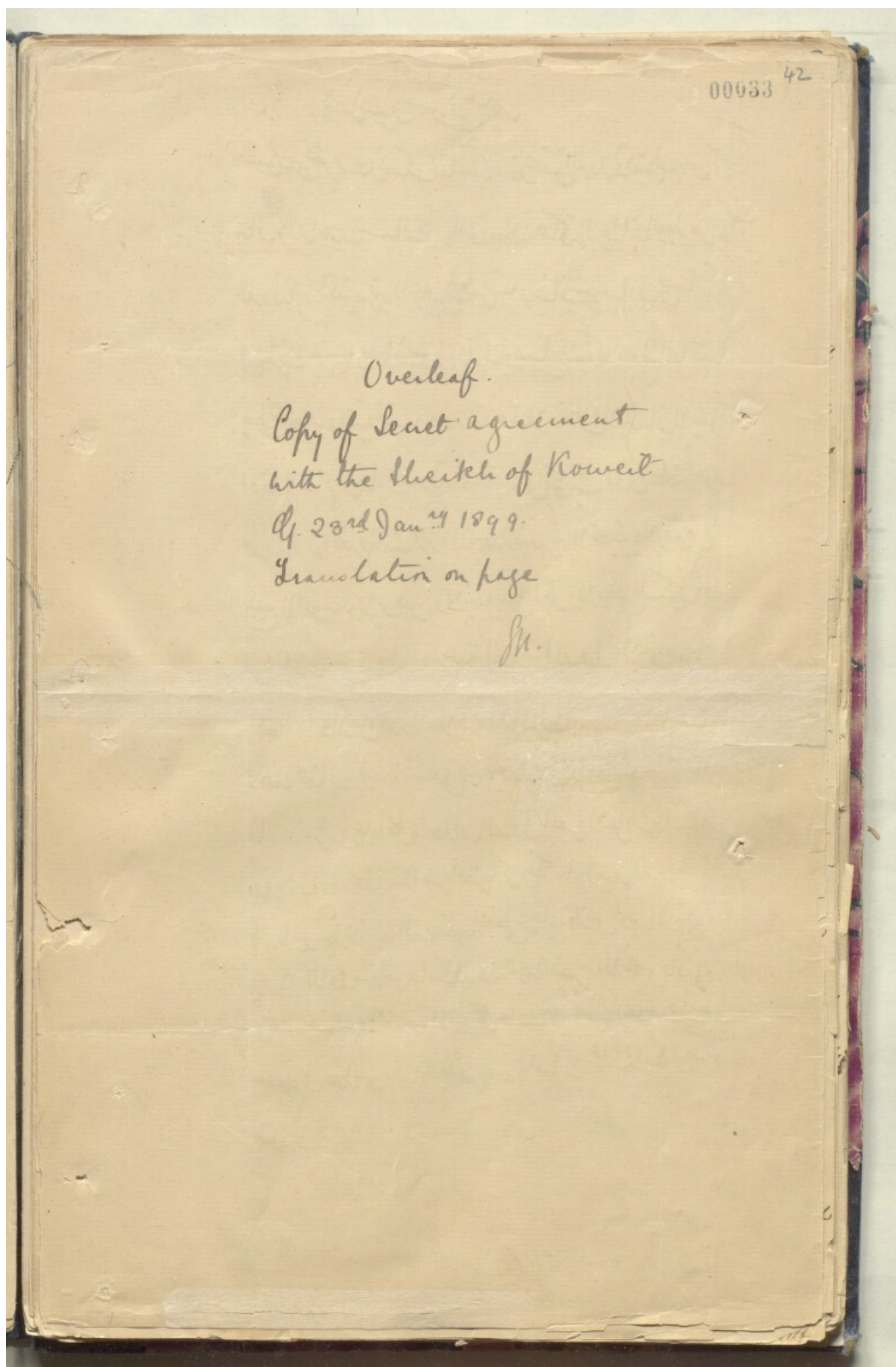
5/ brothers, that their interests in
regard to these ^{Turkish} Estates will be
looked after, & receive the
consideration of Her Majesty's
Govt — It seems to me
desirable that we sh^d do this,
as it will effectually prevent
his brothers fr^m turning against
Sheikh Liabarak, & perhaps
divulging the secret agreement
he has entered into —
I do not think they are likely
to do so, at any rate at present,
but it will be as well to guard
against the possibility, & ensure
their Silence. —

17. I have not been able to ascertain
the exact value of the ~~estate~~ property
held by the Koweit family along the



Turkish side of the Sheat-al-Arab but
I hear ^{that} it brings them in about £6000
a year - ^{Revenue} ~~It is~~ chiefly collected ~~in kind~~
during the date harvest until ~~it is~~
~~it is~~ ^{it is} improbable that any
interference will be attempted.

W. S. S.





43

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

المقصود من تحرير هذا الصك التحقينة ^{المعينة} أنه قد تحقق العهد ويقبل بين كل ملك
 جان ميدانين ستافكار بالبورجلافة ملكة البريطانية العظمى من جانب
 الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليزية في طرف وجانب شيخ مبارك بن صباح ^{الكويتي}
 في الطرف الثاني بان جانب شيخ مبارك بن صباح المذكور برضا واختيار
 يعطى العهد ويقيد نفسه وورثته وخلافته الى الابد بان لا يقبل ^{كملك}
 او قائم مقام من جانب دولة او حكومة في الكويت او في قطعة اخرى
 من حدودها بغیر رخصة الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليزية ولا يقوض ولا
 يبيع ولا يوجر ولا يرهن ولا ينقل بنوع اخر ولا يعطى للسكون قطعة
 من اراضيها الى دولة او رعية احد من الدول الاخرى غير اصل
 الاجازة او الامن لدولة جلالة ملكة البريطانية العظمى لاجل هذه الامور
 وهذه المقاوله ايضا تشمل على كل قطعة في اراضي شيخ المذكور ^{الكويتي}
 حالا في تصرفه عيايا كل واحد من الدول الغير لاجل السيادة لتكمل
 هذه المقاوله التحقينة المعقبة المحترمة كل ملك جان ميدانين ستاف
 كار بالبورجلافة ملكة البريطانية العظمى في خليج فارس وجانب شيخ مبارك
 بن صباح الاول منهما من جانب الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليزية والثاني منها
 من جانب نفسه وورثته وخلافته كل واحد منهما بمحض شهود وضعوا
 معهم في هذا اليوم العاشر من شهر رمضان المبارك سنة اتم ١٢٣٨
 بخوري ١٢٩٩

1299

Copy of Secret Agreement with the Sheikh of
 Kuwait dated 23rd Jan'y 1899. Translation on
 following page.



Translation of Arabic.

00034

"Bissim Allah Ta'alah Shanaho."

Praise be to God alone. (lit. In the Name of God Almighty).

The object of writing this lawful and honourable Bond is that it is hereby covenanted and agreed between Lt Colonel Malcolm John Meade I.S.P., Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident on behalf of the British Government on the one part, and Sheikh Mubarriz bin Sheikh Sabah Sheikh of Koweit on the other part, that the said Sheikh Mubarriz bin Sheikh Sabah of his own free will and desire does hereby pledge and bind himself, his heirs and successors not to receive the Agent or representative of any power or Government at Koweit, or at any other place within the limits of his territory, without the previous sanction of the British Government; and he further binds himself, his heirs and successors not to cede, sell, lease, mortgage, or give for occupation or for any other purpose any portion of his territory to the Government or subjects of any other Power, without the previous consent of Her Majesty's Government for these purposes. This engagement also to extend to any portion of the territory of the said Sheikh Mubarriz, which may now be in the possession of the subject of any other Government.

In token of the conclusion of this lawful and honourable Bond, Lt Colonel Malcolm John Meade I.S.P., Her Britannic Majesty's



Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and
Sheikh Mubarak bin Sheikh Sabah, the former
on behalf of the British Government, and
the latter on behalf of himself, his heirs, and
successors, do each, in the presence of
witnesses, affix their signatures, on this
the tenth day of Ramadhan 1316 corresponding
to the twenty-third day of January 1899.

(sgd) M. J. Meade

Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

sgd. Mubarak-Al-Sabah

(L.S.)

(sgd) E. Wrenham Gore,

Capt. I. M. S.

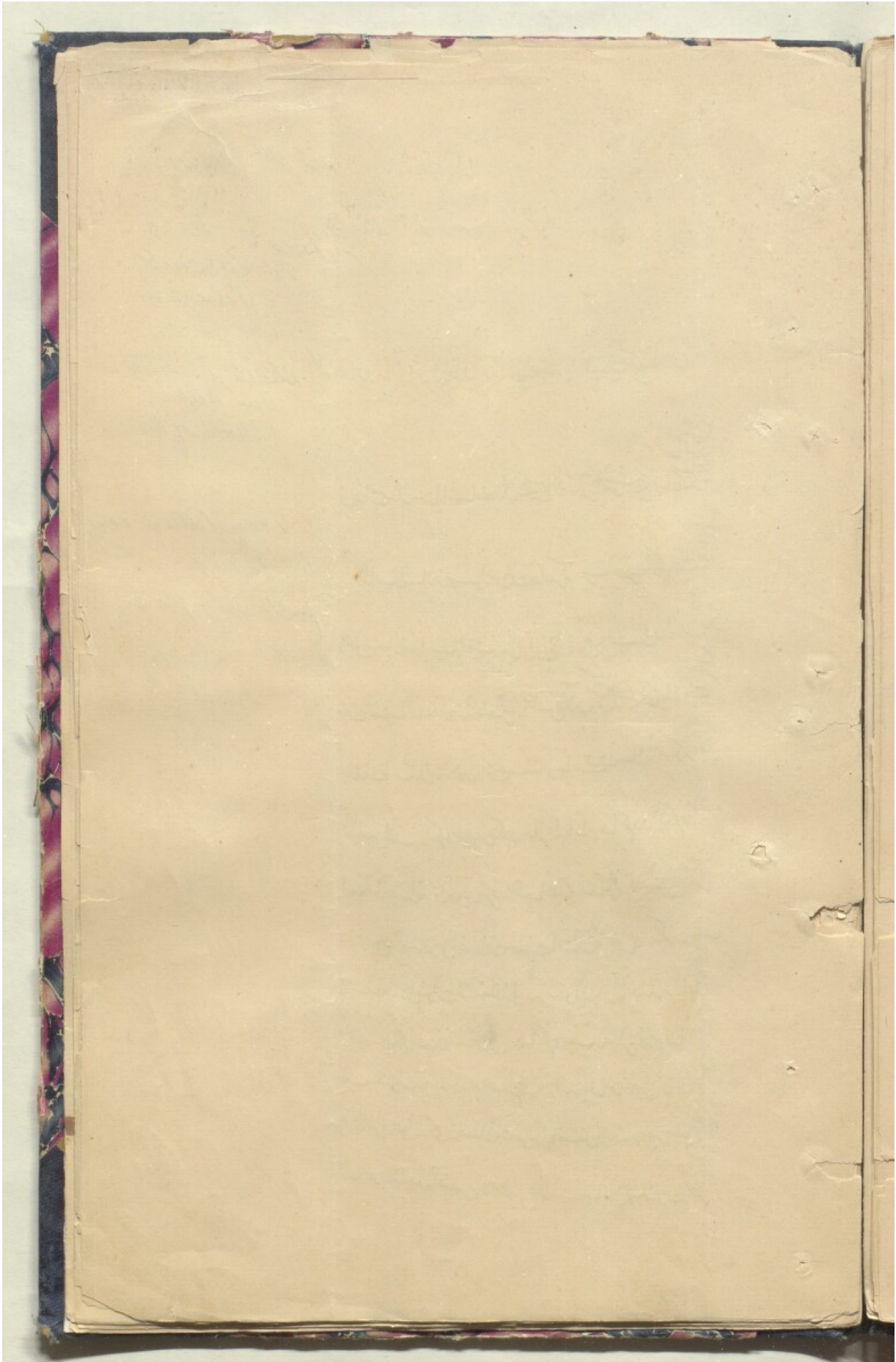
Witnesses

Mohamed Ralim
bin Abdurrahman Saif

(sgd) J. Calcutt Gashin

(L.S.)

[illegible]





Translation of Arabic letter. 00036

Secret.

23rd January 1899.

From Lt Colonel M. J. Meade,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To Sheikh Mubarak bin Sabah
Sheikh of Koweit.

C/o

In view of the signing today of the agreement, so happily concluded between you Sheikh Mubarak bin Sabah, on behalf of yourself, your heirs and successors on the one part, and myself on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, I now assure you, as Sheikh of Koweit, of the good offices of the British Government towards you, your heirs and successors as long as you, your heirs and successors scrupulously and faithfully observe the conditions of the said Bond.

The 3 copies of the Bond will be sent to India to be ratified by His Excellency Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Her Imperial Majesty's Viceroy and Governor General, in Council, and on their return, one copy duly ratified will be conveyed to you, when I will take measures to send you as agreed a sum of Rs 15,000 from the Bushire Treasury.

A most important condition of the execution of this agreement is, that it is to be kept absolutely secret and not divulged or made public in any way, without the previous consent of the British Government.

(sfd) M. J. Meade.
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.



since heard that she went to
Koweit and landed a considerable
number of men but shortly
reembarked them; for what
purpose I have been unable to
learn. She returned here on
the 23rd en route to Muscat
and I believe intended leaving
at the same time as the
Lawrence but her engines were
out of order and she was unable
to leave. Yesterday afternoon
a telegram came for her from
Muscat, and this morning she
went across the bar steaming
very slowly, her destination
quite uncertain but probably
Koweit. I trust I have not
sent the boat to you unneccessary.
The cost will be Rs 16

Yours faithfully
Mr. Johnson



Dec Jan⁴⁶ 26

Dear Col Meade

I have ventured to send
boat and Special messenger to
as I have heard some rumour
which I think it is possible
not have come to yr. know.

It is rumoured that Koweit
a very disturbed state over
news: having reached them to
Sheikh of Nejd with a large
is on the way to attack K.
The reason of this attack
goes) is that the sons of S.
Maharaka's murdered brother
have enlisted the sympathy
help of the Sheikh of

It was reported that the
Comette when passing
a fortnight since, was
her way to Gutter by



since heard that she
Koweit and landed a
number of men but she
reembarked them; for
purpose I have been in
learn. She returned
the 23rd en route to B.
and I believe intended
at the same time as
Lawrence but her en-
out of order and she
to leave. Yesterday a
a telegram came for
Bunrah, and this morn-
went across the bay
very slowly, her dir-
quite uncertain but
Koweit. I trust I have
sent the boat to you
The cost will be Rs.
Yours faithfully
Mr. John



48

00037

To Foreign

Recommend Naval
Commander-in-chief may be
asked detain Pigeon in
Gulf

Inade

27. 1. 99.

47



Bussorah

Jan. 20. 99

My dear Colonel.

I refered your letter
about the payment of
Mr Gandhi's salary to
Major Melville, as I know
nothing whatever about
the question beyond the
undoubted fact that he
certainly will not get



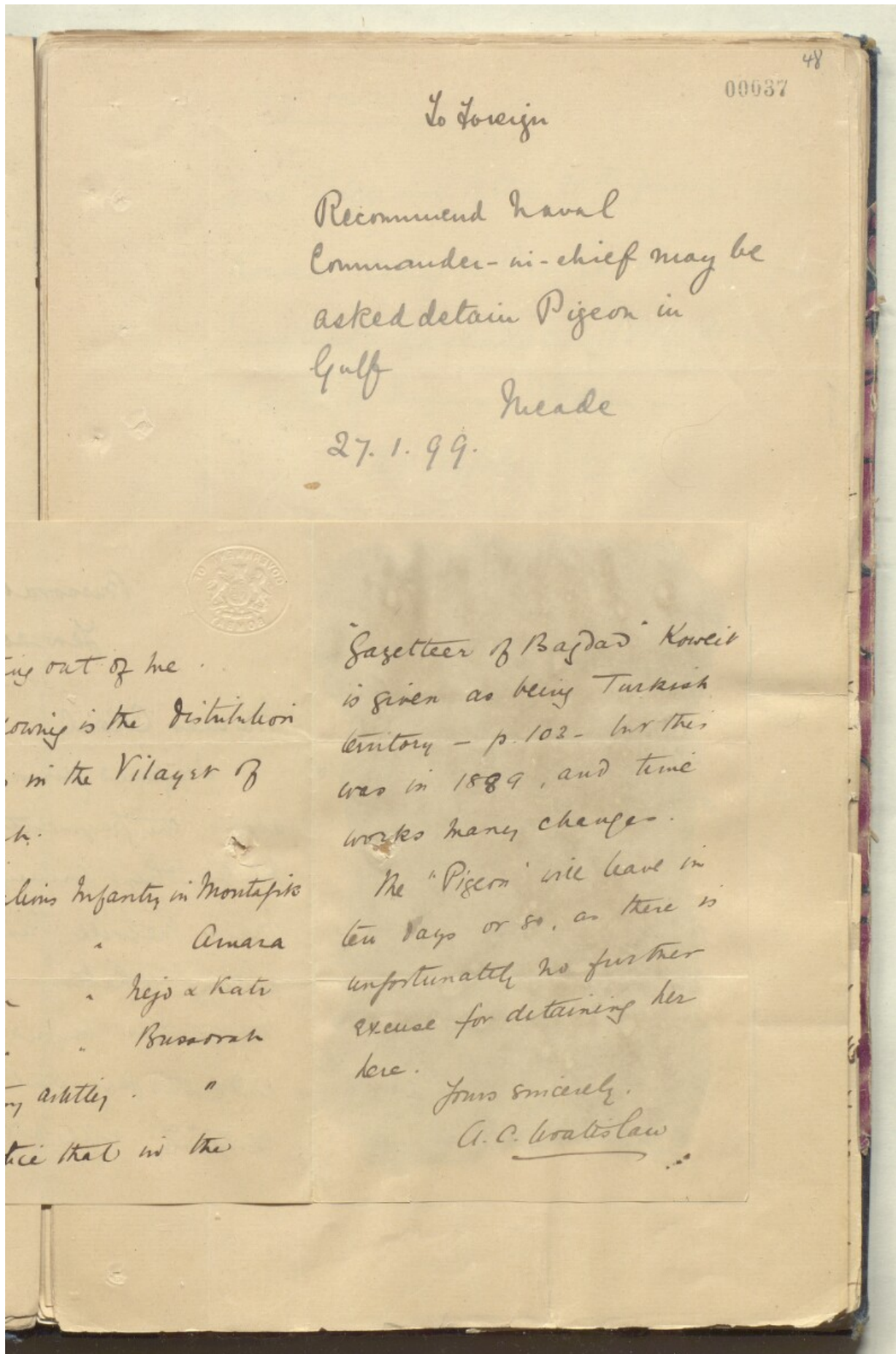
a farther out of me.
The following is the distribution
of troops in the Vilayet of
Bunorah.

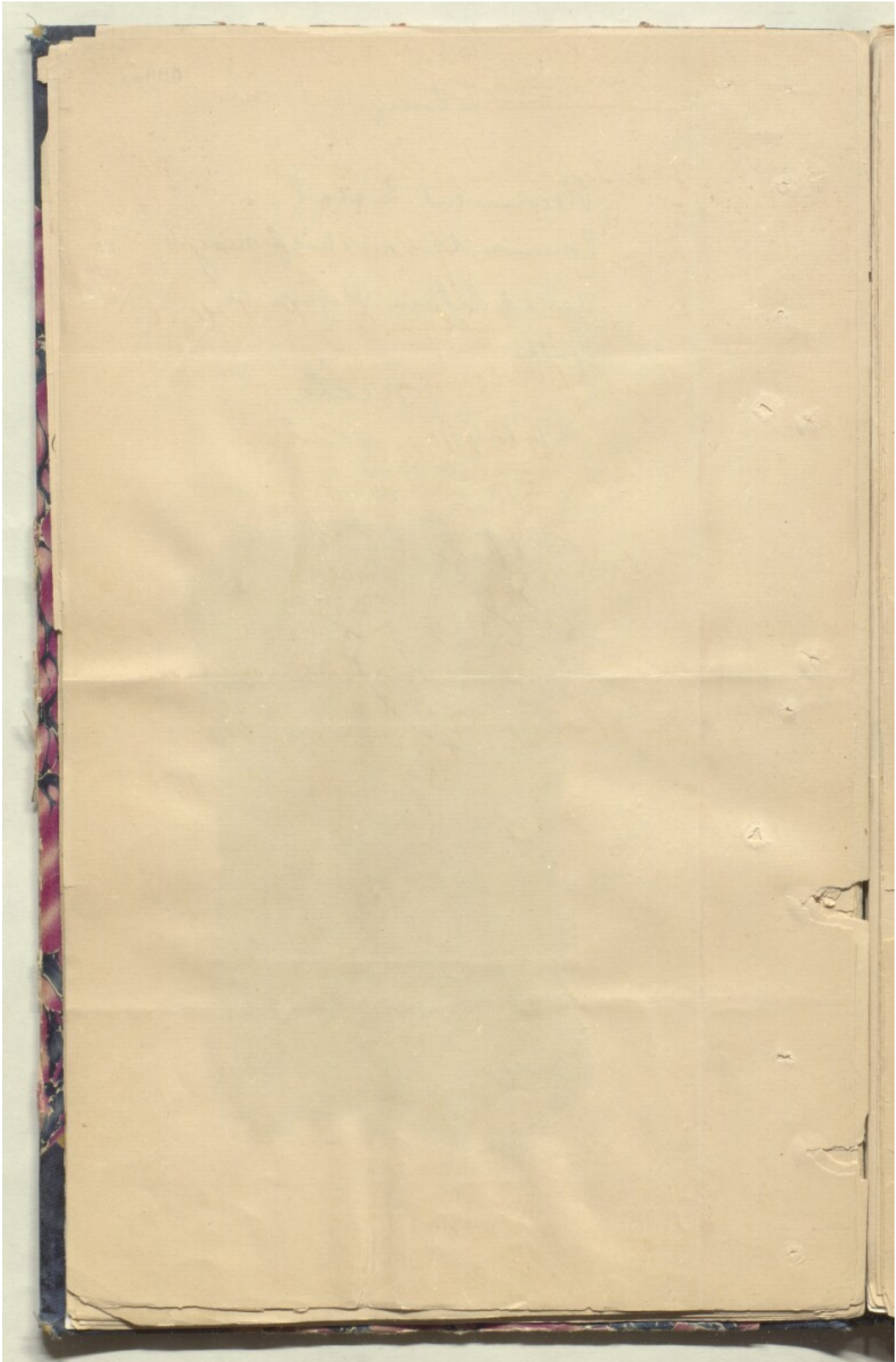
3 Battalions Infantry in Montepio
3 " " Amara
3 " " Kays & Kati
4 " " Bunorah
1 battery artillery "

I notice that in the

Rec
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Gul
27

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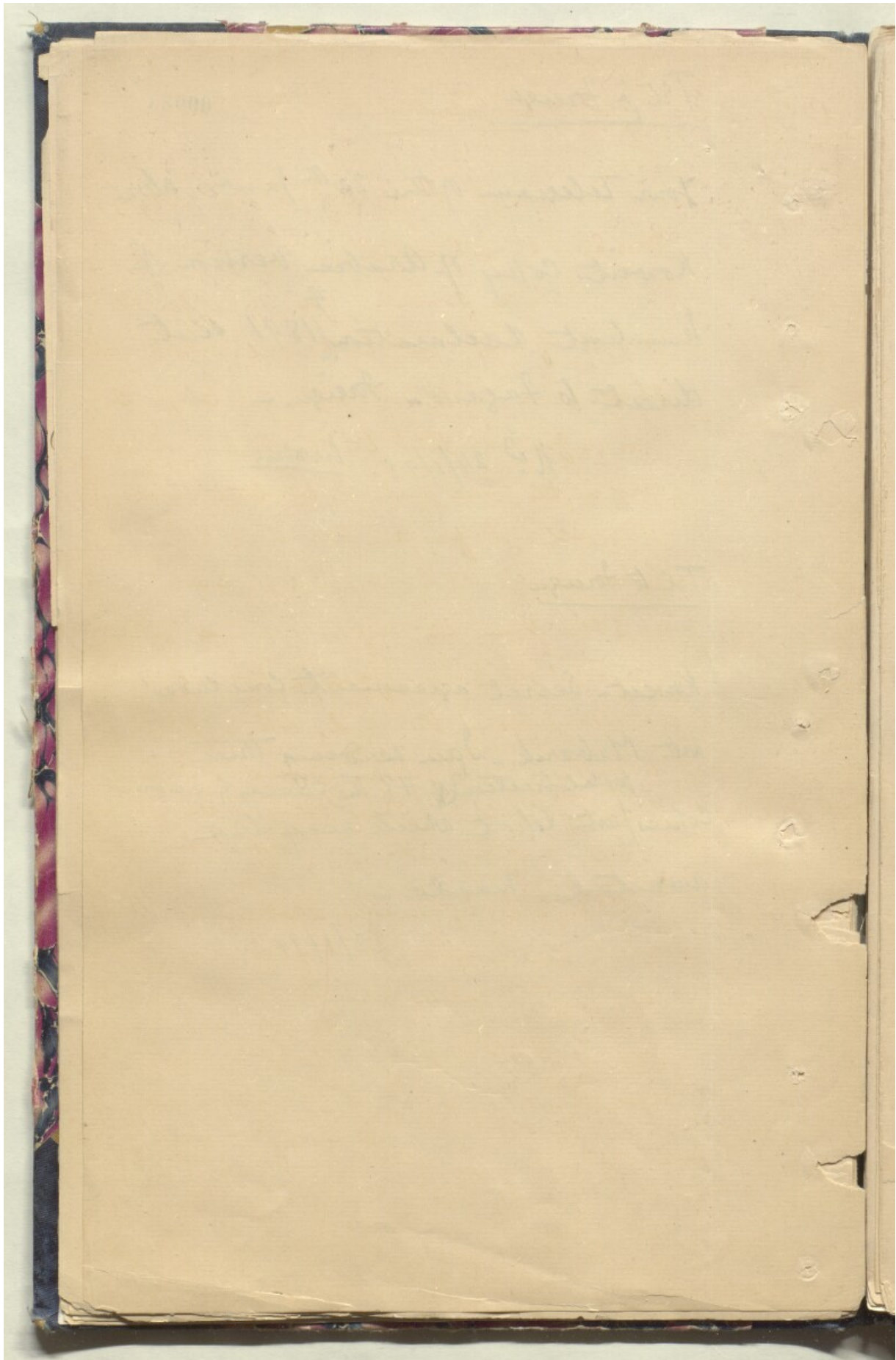
Tel to Foreign

00638

44
Your telegram of the 20th Janry. about
Koweit copy of Arabic version of
husnat declaration⁴ [1891] sent
direct to Fagan - Foreign -
No 24/1/99. W.S.

Tel to Foreign

Koweit - Secret agreement concluded
with Mubarik. I am sending three
for ratification^{by} of H.E. The Secretary G. G. in Council
copies [with report which may be
awaited - made -
28/1/99.





Copy.

Confidential.

50
60039

Bushire 24th Jan^y 1899

Dear Sir William Cunningham,

I am sending you an official report of my visit to Koweit which will I hope prove, on the whole, satisfactory. It was unfortunate that the Turkish Corvette was in the place just at the that time: but it would not of course have done to have taken any special notice of her presence, and as I saw from the papers accounts of the projected Railway, of which Koweit is to be the Terminus at this end, I thought it best to push on, and get an agreement signed as soon as I could. There have been persistent rumours of an attack on Koweit by the nephews aided by various Arab Tribes: but I could hear nothing which there to confirm this, and it seems improbable that we would not have heard something if Sheikh Umbarik's position is really precarious. He himself thinks he is quite secure, or professes to think so, and when I asked him if he would like a British gunboat kept near Koweit to assist him if needful he replied that it



was not necessary, as he could defend ~~him~~ himself.

The question about the family estates in Turkish territory is more important than I thought it was, and we will have to do something to insure the Family getting their Revenues if they come regularly under our protection. The Estates are considerable and are said to bring in about £6000/- a year. This may be an exaggeration, but in any case the Sheikhs of Koweit look to them for their chief permanent source of income, and they cannot afford to lose them. Nothing is likely to happen, I should say, till the date harvest, which begins in August, for the trees cannot be easily destroyed, and it is moreover contrary to the religious convictions of these people to do them any injury. When the dates are being gathered, however, the Turks may prevent Umbarik from collecting his share, if they have an idea that he is our man. The agreement with him has been kept as secret as possible, but it was impossible not to consult his brothers, and I think he should.



6040⁵¹

try and make their minds easy by giving them an assurance that we will protect their property, if necessary.

I find the Turks have the following force in the Busrah Vilayet at present:

3 Battalions of Infantry in Montagah

3 Battalions " Amara

3 " " Najd & Kabr.

4 " " at Busrah itself

1 Battery of Artillery also at Busrah

or 13 Battalions each about 500 strong and 1 Battery.

It will I think be best to keep the Pigeon, now at Busrah, in this part of the Gulf, and I would like the Sphinx also sent back from Muskat, as soon as she is relieved by another gun-boat. I have telegraphed about the Pigeon as she is that she is likely to leave Busrah soon, and think she should be kept in the Gulf.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

(sgd) M. J. Meade



Of 30. 1. 99. Telegram
From Calcutta To Col. Insaide
Bushman

Redbreast left Bombay on 25th
January for Muscat. Do you
require both Sphinx & Pigeon
in Gulf as well.

F.A. What do you think?
Probably Sphinx will be enough
when she returns - but till then
I think we had better keep
Pigeon up here (Ed) M.J.M.

30. 1. 99.

Resd.

It seems to me advisable
to ask for the two gunboats in
addition to the Sphinx especially
just now there is a crisis at Muscat
& matters of importance elsewhere
& Lujah also in a precarious state.
This need only be temporary; if
Muscat affairs subside & there
appears later on no cause for
apprehension in the north of the
Gulf, one might return, but I
should say that in the face of
P.G. Muscat's recent application
on q. of arms traffic & Lujah
trouble, one besides Sphinx should
be the lowest number kept in the Gulf

31/1/99. (Ed) E.W.H



00041

52

Tel to Foreign

Your telegram yesterday

I think that besides gunboat at
Muscat ^{it is advisable keep 2} ~~sample are wanted~~ in the
Persian Gulf ~~for the present~~ till we see how things go on.

Koweit requires watching and ~~Persian~~
disturbances at.
~~intend attacking the rebel Sheikh~~
likely the presence of ~~there~~
Lingah/ when/ man of war ~~there~~
will be desirable/ protect British
interests - Heard

31/1/99

FA

define have that

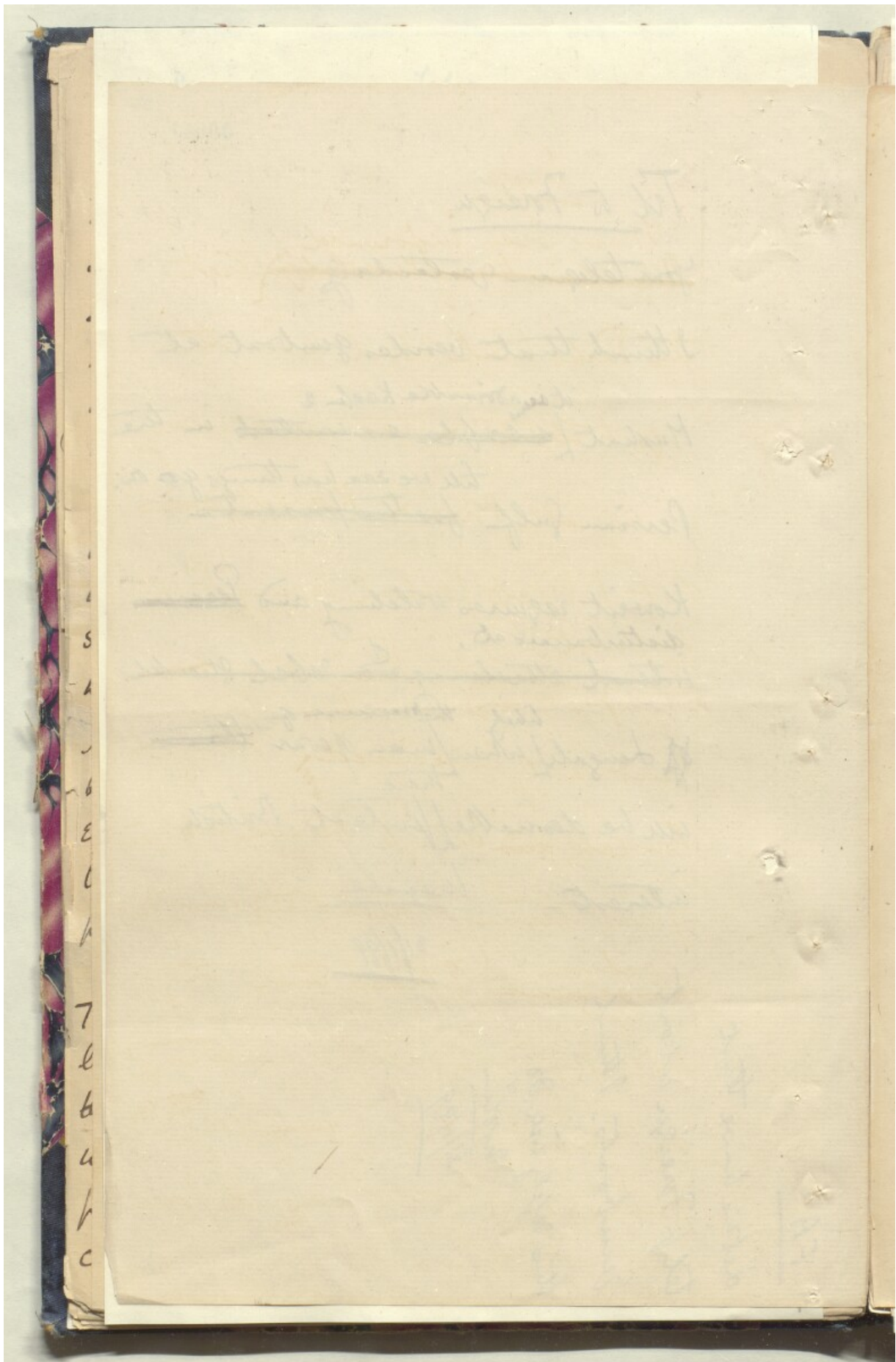
tel to Foreign about

gunboats. I think

this reply will do.

Wrote

31/1/99





00042

3

Foreign

I have been informed
~~It has come to my knowledge~~ that
 the Turks tried about 2 months
 ago to charter a steamer to convey
 considerable force to Koweit, ~~and~~
 but project failed owing ^{to the} want
 sufficient ~~ready~~ money. They have ~~been~~
 gradually increased ~~force~~ at
 Busrah, ~~and~~ though I have not heard
 of any thing indicating immediate
~~movement~~ ^{action} I think that they
 will probably make an attempt
 on the place before ~~very long~~ ^{4.4.63}
 presence of strong naval force
~~here~~ with instructions to forbid attack.



on Koweit ~~appears advisable~~

ends

2/2/99

Secret Tel^m fr: Foreign
Your tel^m of the 2nd Feb. If
Turks attempt attack Koweit,
naval force instructed to
forbid & prevent it.

Recd. 5.2.99. Foreign

Fr. Inst. Tel^m to Pigeon

Dy. 5.2.99. Brishie

Indian Govt telegraphs as follows:

begins - If Turks attempt
attack on Koweit naval force
instructed to forbid & prevent
it. - ends. Please use your
discretion & inform F. A.
Confidentially Resident.

Copy forwarded to the Senior
naval officer in the Persian Gulf
for information & guidance -
The telegram from the Res^{dt} P. G.
to the Secy to the G. of I. in the
For: Dept^t referred to in the



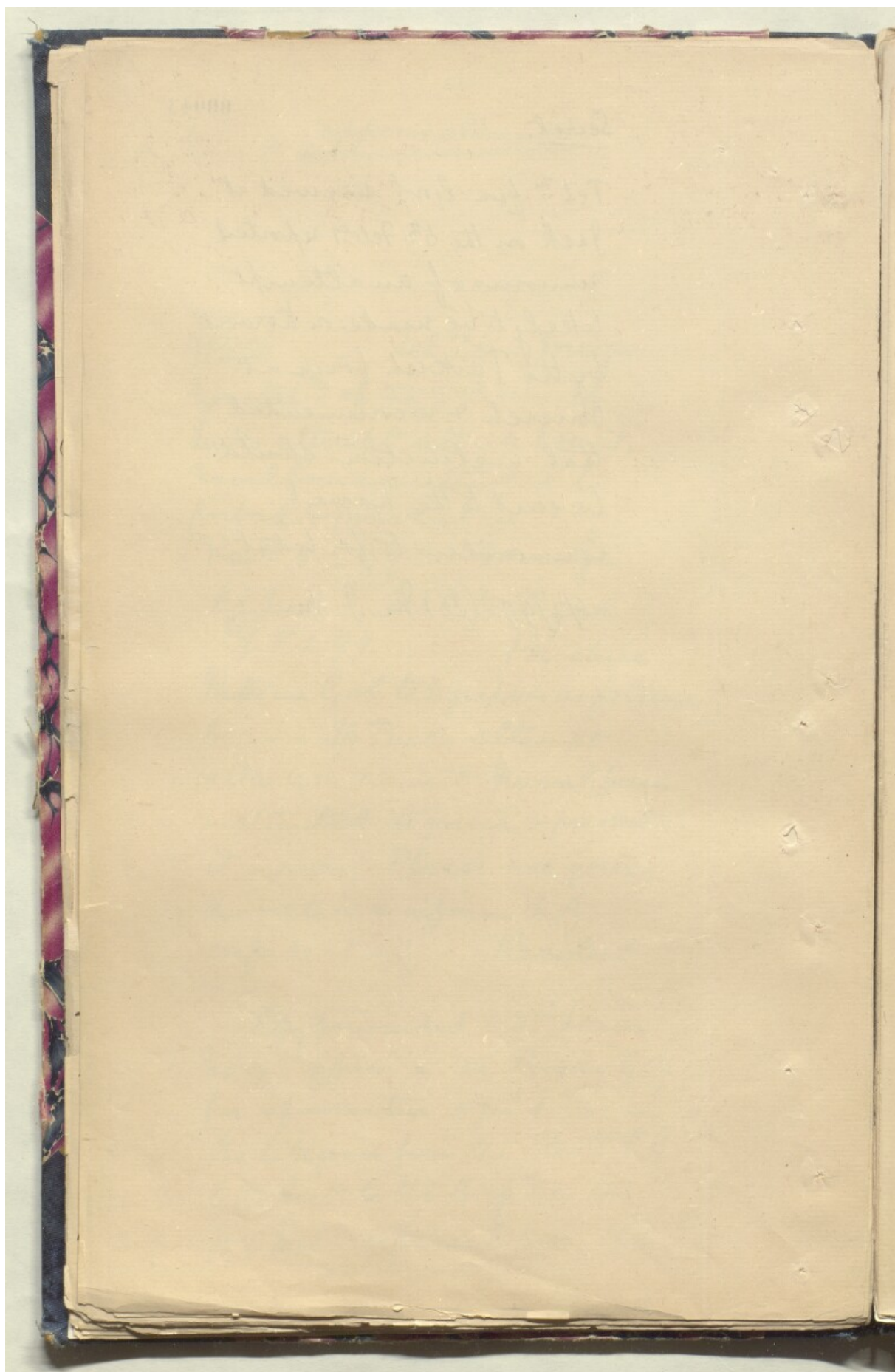
54

00043

Secret.

Tel^m from Govt received at
Jask on the 5th Feb^y reported
rumours of an attempt
likely to be made on Koweit
by the Turkish force at
Bousrah & recommended
that instructions should
be sent to the Naval
Commanders to forbid it.

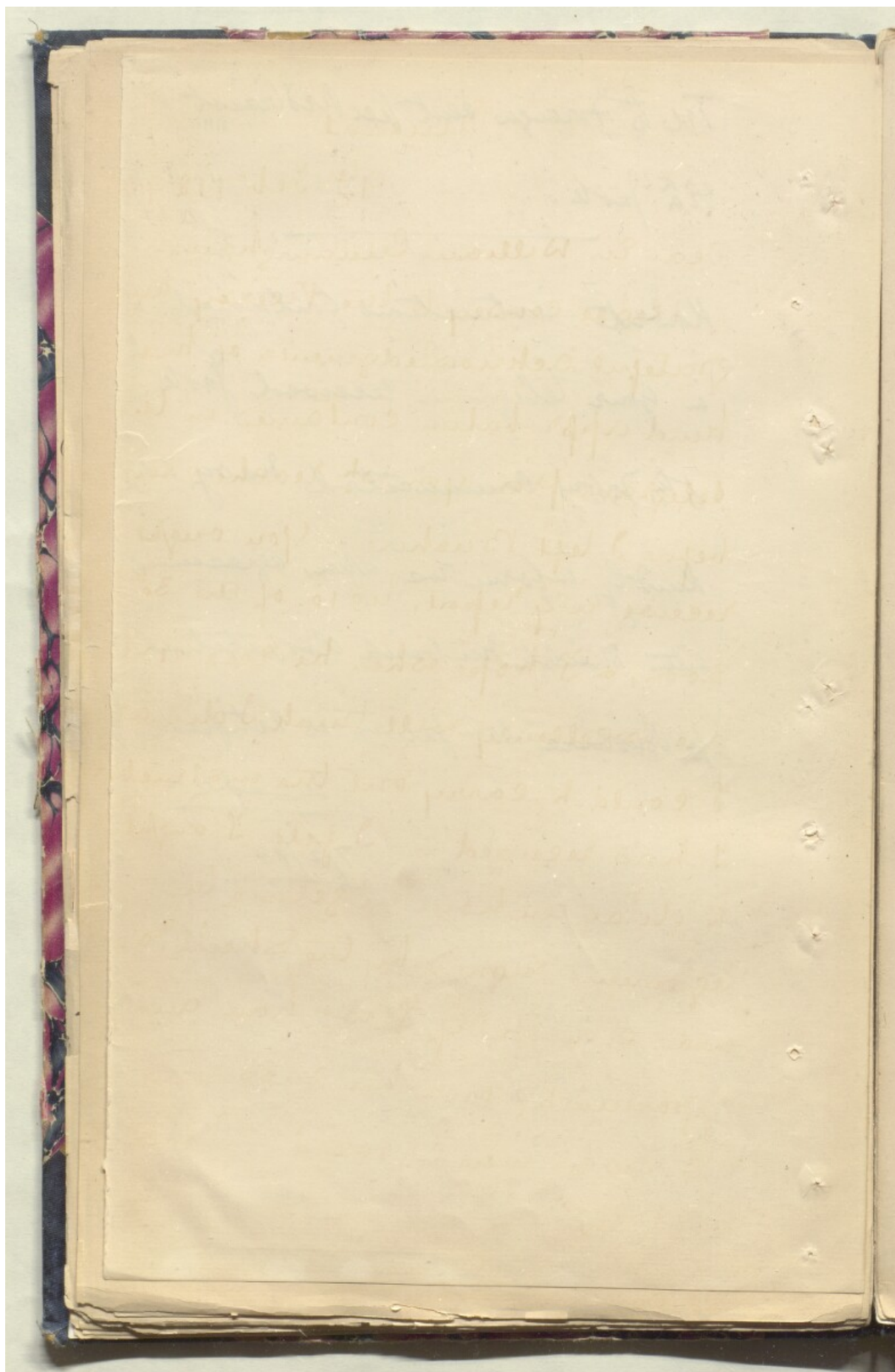
6/2/99. (D) M. J. M.

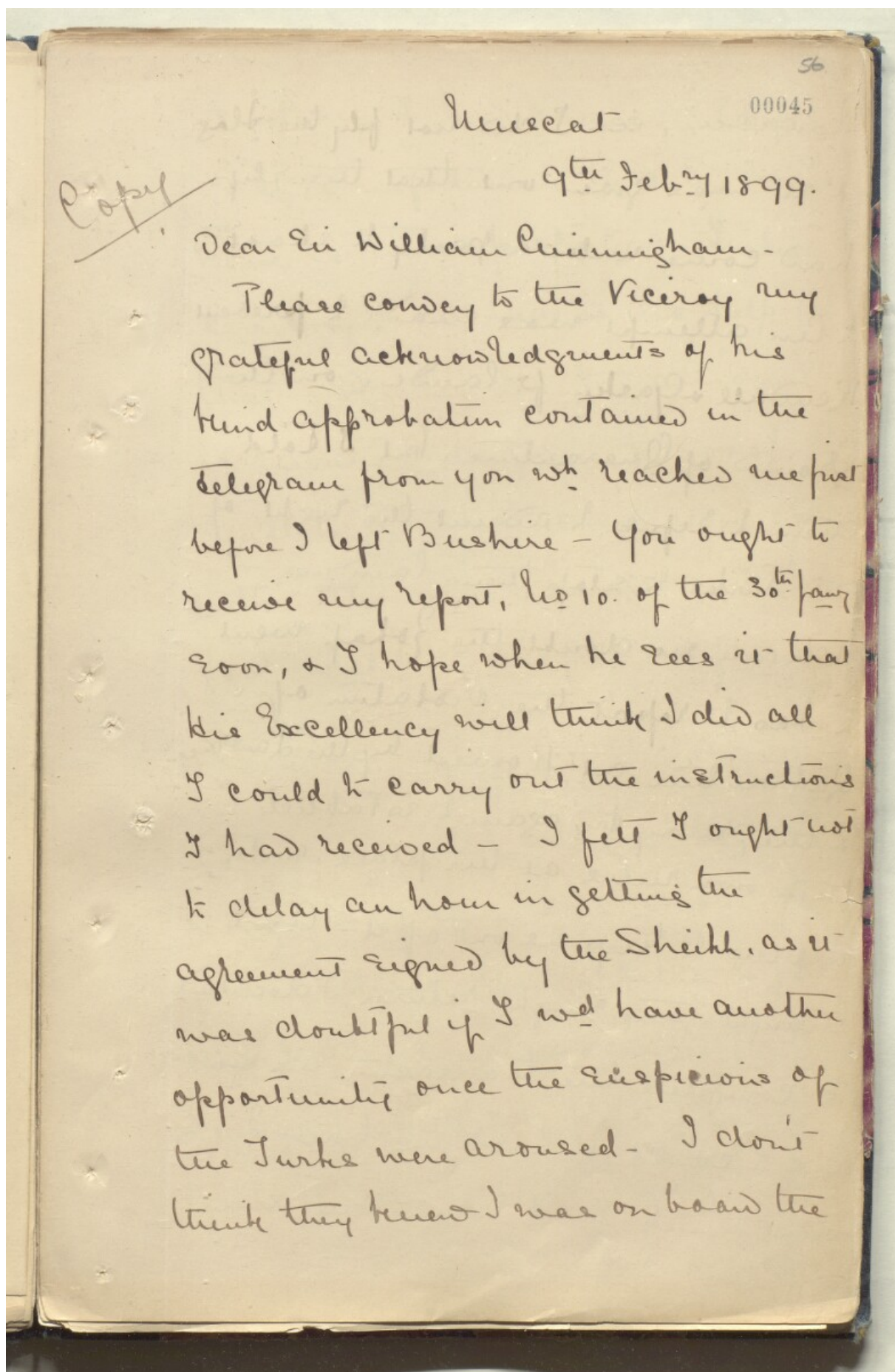




Tel. to Foreign sent per Redbreast⁵⁵
00664
via Jask.

Koweit instructions contained
in your telegram received Jask
5th Feb^y communicated Navy - &c.
Kindly inform me when agreement
with Sheikh Mubarak despatched
for Business 30th Jan^y is ratified -
meade
7/2/89







Lawrence", as I did not fly the flag
& it was given out that the ship
had come with a party to shoot
- An attempt was made to prevent
Kendall & Gaskin fr. landing on the
ground of Quarantine: but I told
them to refuse to admit the right of
the Turks to stop them landing -
I have no doubt the "Zohap" went
to Sao to report the violation of
Quarantine at Koweit by the "Lawrence"
& they may try again to establish
their own rule at the place, with
a view to keep me out of it - As I
thought they might return, I decided
to complete the transaction as well
as I could, & looking back I
don't think I cd have done any



00046 57
more if I had remained longer
It is unfortunate that the family
have so much property in Turkish
territory; but there is no help for
that - As regards the amount
of money to be given £15000/-
equal to about \$1000. - it is well
within the sum named - so I hope
Govt will be satisfied as far as
that goes -

I cannot help thinking that
the refusal of the Shaikhi brothers
to sign the paper, was a concerted
plan between them - either to force
me to give some guarantee for their
Turkish property - or perhaps to
enable a part of the family to keep

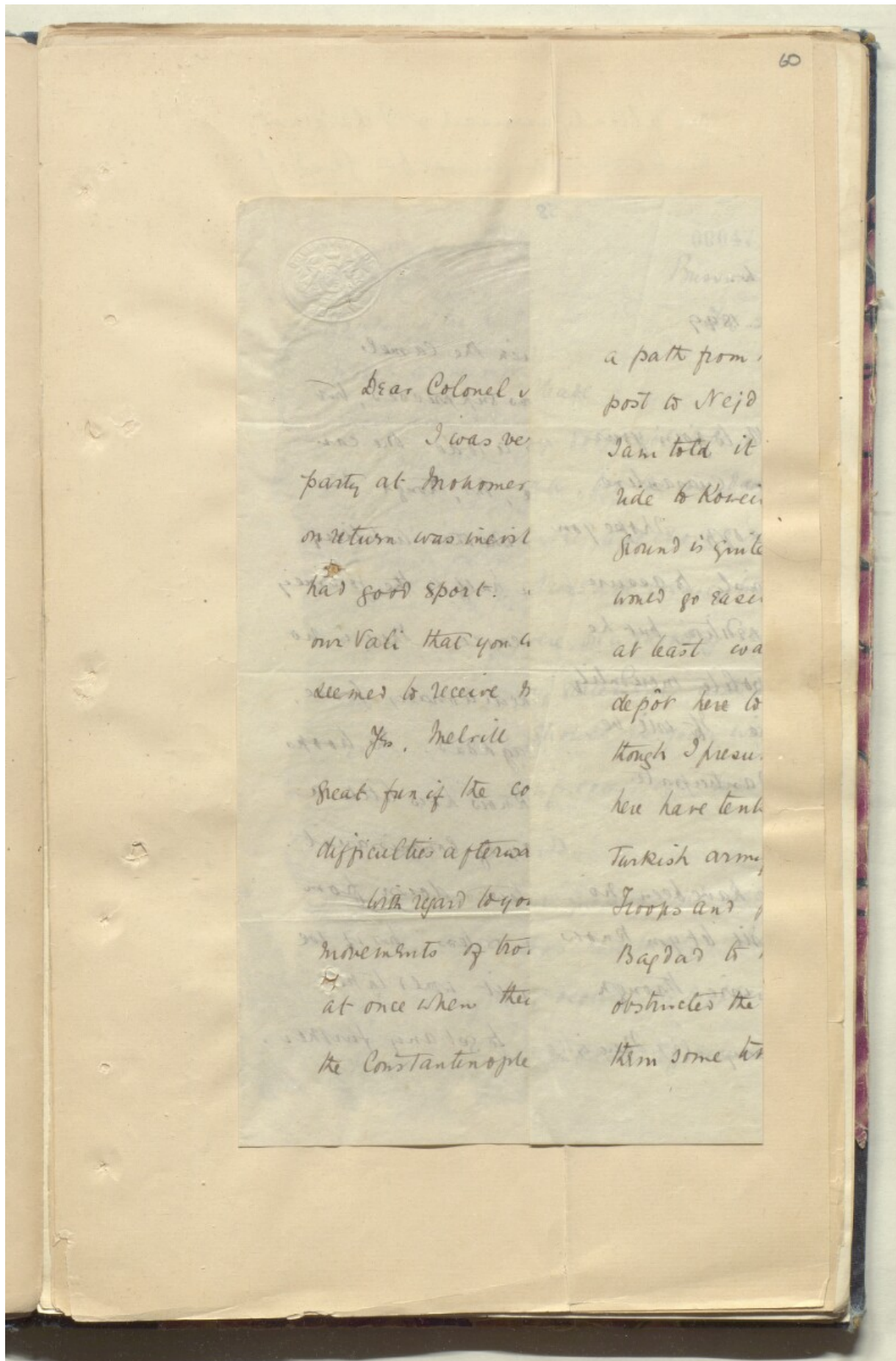


in with the Turke, & so to maintain
the estate if we eventually
refuse to support them in regard
to those properties - I think this
because Sheikh Humud knew quite
well what I was authorised to do,
& must have told the Shaikh
Umbarik - before he met me -

A part of the Turkish property belongs
of course to the rival party - the
nephews - & I expect the actual
income derived for the whole - wh^{ch}
was put down by the Sheikh at
£6000/- is considerably less than
stated - I am writing separately
about Muskat -

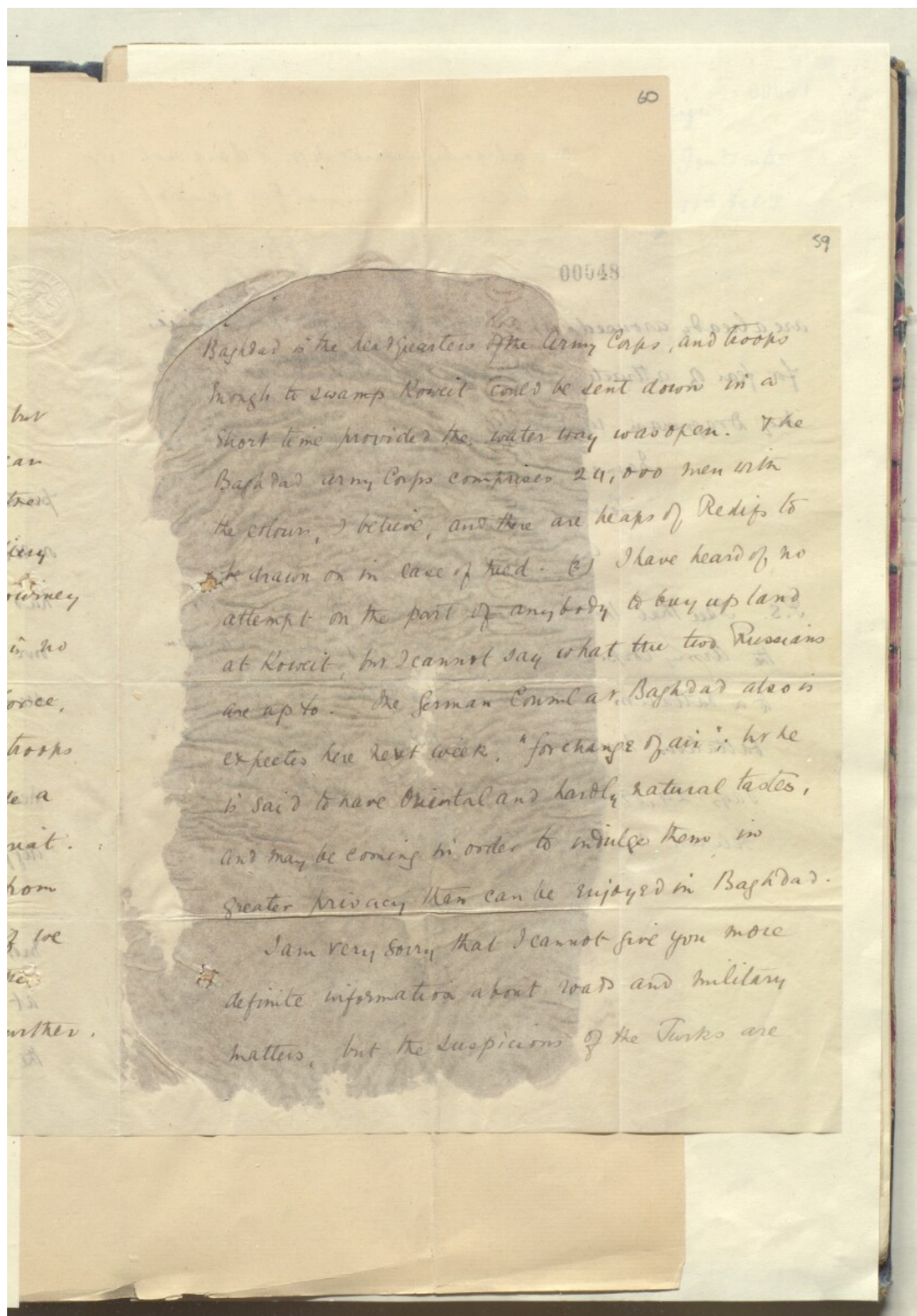
Copy

Yrs sincerely
W. J. Meade





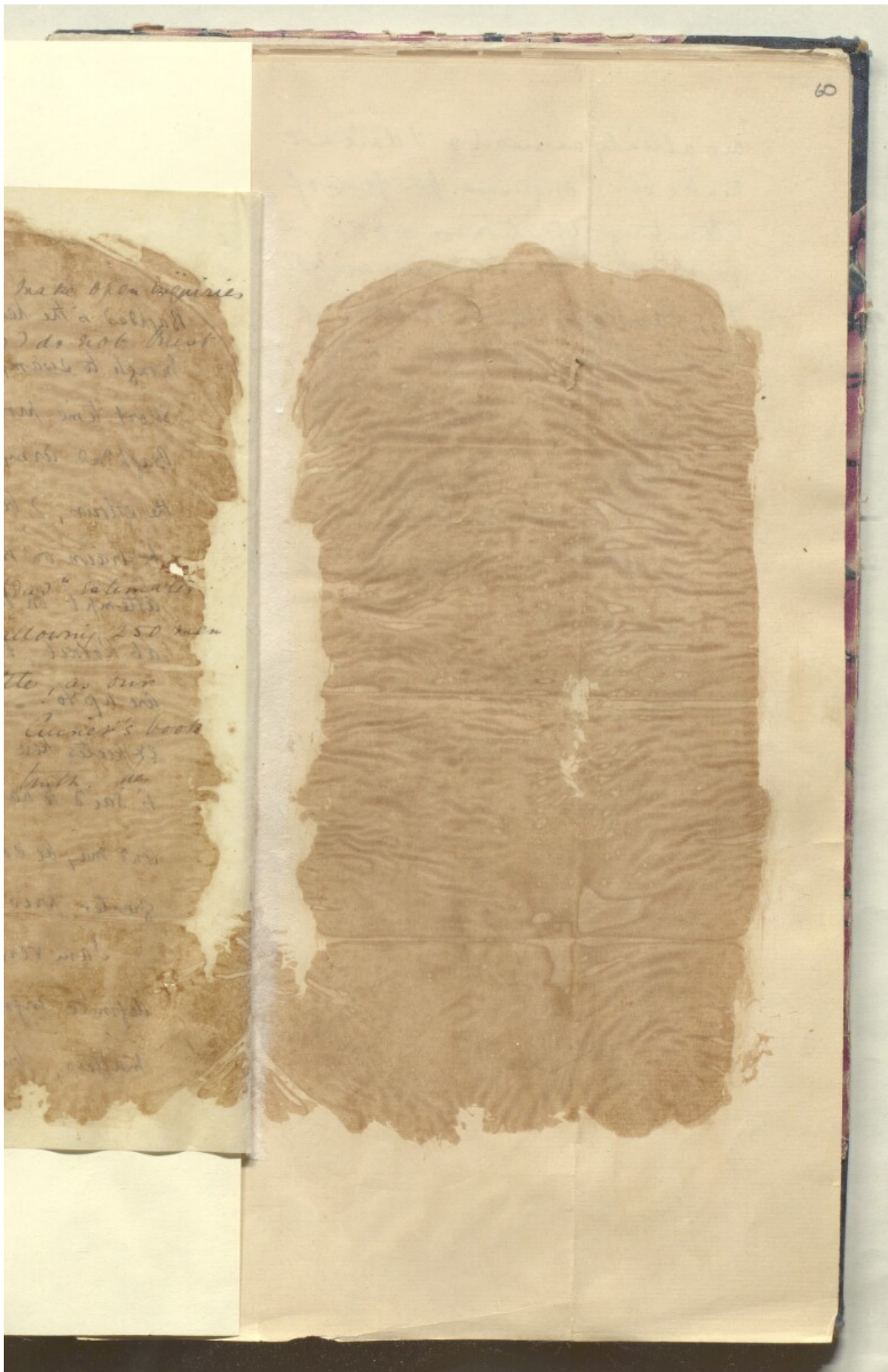
a path from here to Koweit, by which the camel
 post to Nejd used to go tho it was suppressed, but
 I am told it can hardly be called a road. One can
 ride to Koweit all night from here, but, though the
 ground is quite level, I can't say whether it
 would go easily, and for the latter half of the journey
 at least water would be very scarce. There is no
 depot here to fit out a large expeditionary force,
 though I presume such exists at Bagdad. The troops
 here have tents however, and you know how little a
 Turkish army requires in the way of commissariat.
 Troops and provisions could be towed down from
 Bagdad to Basrah in a week or less, but if we
 obstructed the mouth of the river it would take
 them some time and preparation to get any further.



Baghdad is the headquarters of the Army Corps, and troops
 enough to swamp Koweit could be sent down in a
 short time provided the water way was open. The
 Baghdad Army Corps comprises 24,000 men with
 the column, I believe, and there are heaps of Redifs to
 be drawn on in case of need. (c) I have heard of no
 attempt on the part of anybody to buy up land
 at Koweit, but I cannot say what the two Russians
 are up to. The German Consul at Baghdad also is
 expected here next week, "for change of air"; he
 is said to have Oriental and hardly natural tastes,
 and may be coming in order to indulge them in
 greater privacy than can be enjoyed in Baghdad.

I am very sorry that I cannot give you more
 definite information about road and military
 matters, but the suspicions of the Turks are

are already aroused, and I dare not make open inquiries
for fear of attracting attention - and I do not trust
my Dragoon, unreservedly.
P.S. See that the "Gazette of Baghdad" intimates
the Army Corps as 12,000, allowing 250 men
to a battalion - a remarkably little, as our
battalions here have 500 men. Quin's book
says 24,000, and I suspect the truth lies
between 24,000 and 12,000.





are already aroused & I dare not
make open enquiries for fear of
attracting attention — & I do not
trust my dragoman unreservedly
P.S. I see that the Gazetteer of
Baghdad estimates the Army Corps
at 12,300 allowing 250 men per
battalion — obviously too little, as
our battalions here have 500
men. Cuinet's book says 24,000
& I expect the truth lies between
20 & 24,000.

(Ed) A. C. Wratishaw.



Telegram

To: Foreign

00049

Koweit Your no. 10 of 30th Jan^{ry} with
Secret agreement received 11th Feb^{ry}
I do not understand the 3rd
provision extending the engagement
to territory now in possession of
subjects of other Governments.
Does it refer to Mubarak's estates
near Fao which the Turks have
gradually absorbed

Rev. 15/2/99.

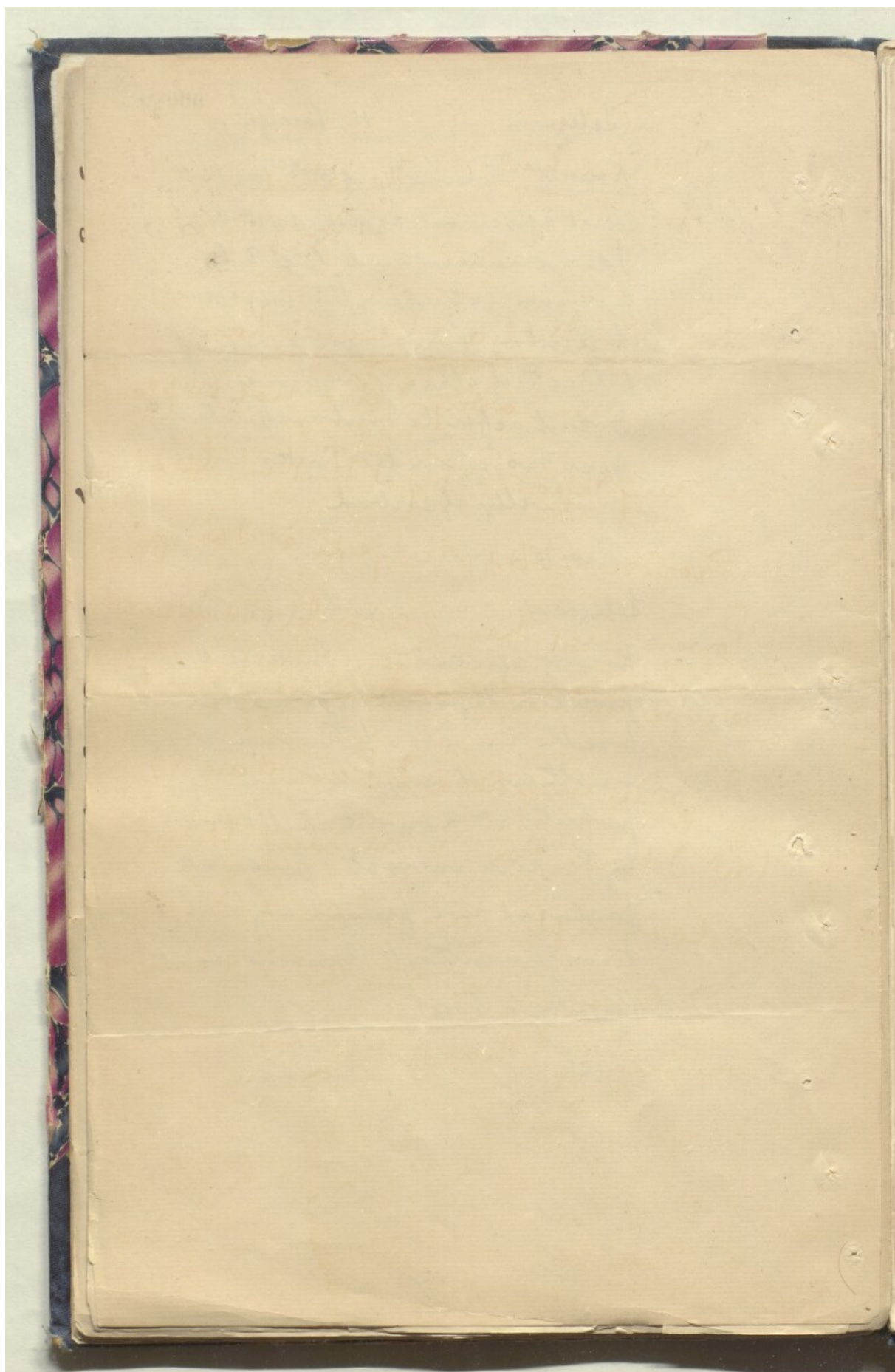
Telegram

To Foreign

Koweit agreement. I inserted
provision to guard against the
possible transfer to Russians
or others of some house
property at Koweit itself owned
by Turkish subjects. Mubarak
promised not permit any such
transfers without previous consent
of H. M.'s Govt.

18/2/99

Inade





62
00150
Copy Confidential Muskat.
18.2.99.

Dear Sir William Cunningham

I am sorry I did not explain
in my report, why I put in that
Proviso about subjects of foreign
Powers not being able to transfer
property they now hold at Rowet
- I fully intended to have done so -
but I have had so many things
to look after lately, that it escaped
my memory at the time I was
writing - I have kept all the
Koweit & Muskat papers in my
own hands, & copied the report
on the former place myself



so I hope you will kindly
excuse the oversight.
I put in the proviso, because
I found that the Hindu of
Buerah & I believe other Surks
own houses at Koweit itself -
It seemed very desirable that
the transfer of such, to Russians
or others, sh^d be prevented & I
got the Sheikh to agree not to
allow it - I hope the proviso
will be approved, & that the
agreement will soon be ratified
Believe me
Y^r sincerely
H. J. Curade

Copy



From Foreign

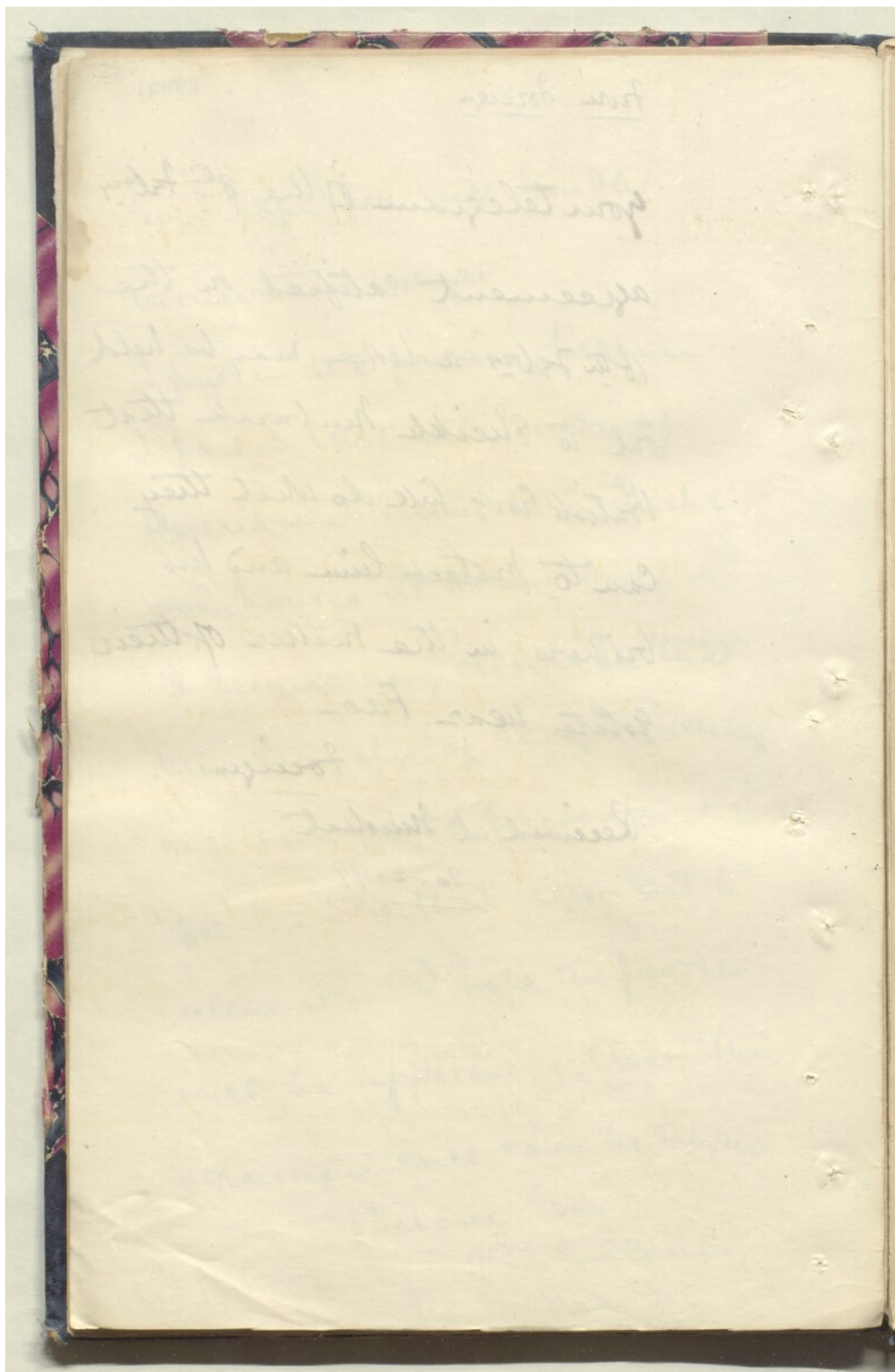
C0651 63

your telegram of the 8th Feby
agreement ratified on the
16th Feby a letter may be held
out to Sheikh Mubarak that
British Govt will do what they
can to protect him and his
brothers in the matter of their
estates near Fao -

Foreign

Received at Muscat

20.2.99





cop
N^o 10
Confidential

64
00652

British Consulate,
Basrah, Feby, 6th 1899

Sir,
With reference to my Despatch
N^o 8 of the 1st instant, I have the
honour to report that a letter has been
received by the Wali of Basrah from
the Turkish Consul at Bushire, reporting
that the British Government appears
to be paying increased attention to
Koweit; and suggesting that an Ottoman
Agent of Experience and with a knowledge
of European languages should be
appointed at that place to watch events.

Major P. J. Melvill
H. M. Acting Consul General & Resident
+ ca + ca + ca
Baghdad



He also stated that the German
Government intend to despatch a ship
of war to the Persian Gulf, and that
a French Agent would probably call
at Koweit before long.

I have seen
sq. A. C. Wratislaw
H. B. M. Consul
Basrah

[Signature]



65

00053

N^o 28

British Consulate,
Busrah Feby 7th 1899.

Sir,
With reference to my letter N^o
23 of the 1st instant, I have the
honour to forward herewith copy of
a further despatch which I have
addressed to H.M.'s Acting Consul
General at Baghdad on the subject
of Koweit.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
your most obedient
humble servant
A. C. Kersten

Lieut. Colonel M. J. Meade
Political Resident &
Consul General Busrah

H.B.M.'s Consul
Busrah



arrived he went off in due course
and told the Commander that
she was contaminated and must
not communicate with a nice
clean place like Koweit. Whereupon
he landed by force ("à la force") along
with you, and sent a callow in
Mubarak. The Doctor has
reported this outrage by wire to
Constantinople, and I dare say
you have already heard from

the Embassy about it.

The Doctor tells me that the
Sanitary Board regard Koweit as
being entirely in his District, and
that he stations a "préposé"
there by order from Compe.

It seems to me that it will
be difficult to avoid raising
the question whether Koweit
is, or is not, in ^{the} Turkish
dominions. The Sanitary
Board is composed of delegates

from all the powers & we are not
very popular therein

Yours sincerely
(sd) A. C. Wratishaw



66
Bussorah
Feb. 9. 99

My dear Colonel,

Your little jaunt in the "Lawrence" will probably raise the Koweit question sooner than was expected. On Tuesday I had occasion to call on the Quarantine Doctor, and he showed me a report from his delegate at Koweir stating that when the "Lawrence"

from all the powers & we are not very popular therein

Yours sincerely
(sd) A. C. Wratishan



arrived he went off in due course
and told the Commander that
she was contaminated and must
not communicate with a nice
clean place like Koweit. Nevertheless
he landed "by force" (V.S.) along
with you, and sent a callow in
Mubarak. The Doctor has
reported this outrage by wire to
Constantinople, and I dare say
you have already heard from

the Embassy about
the Doctor tells
Sanitary board
being entirely in
that he stationed
there by order of
It seems to me
be difficult to
The question is
is, or is not,
dominions. The
Board is comp

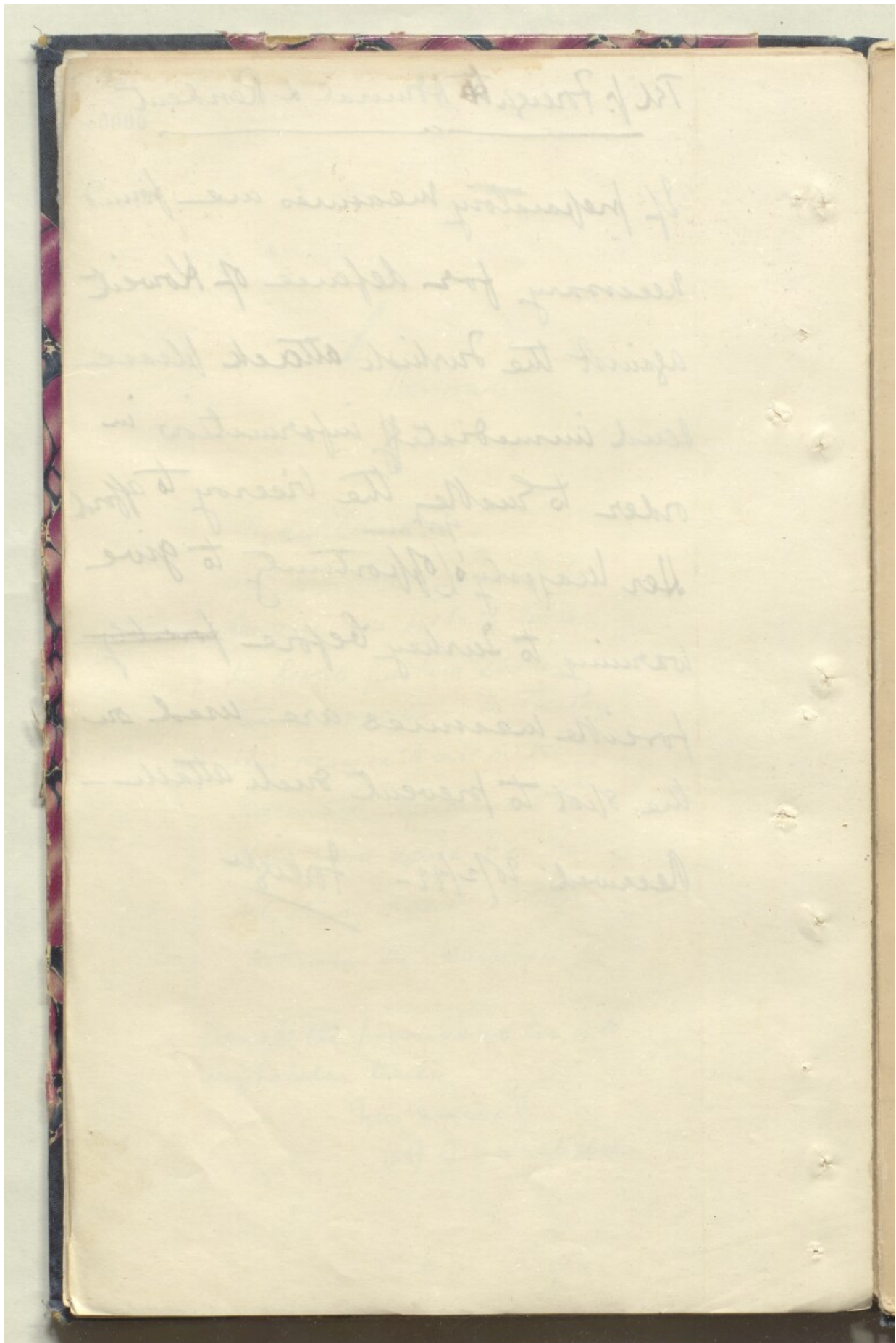
from all the power
very popular there
Yours &
(sd)

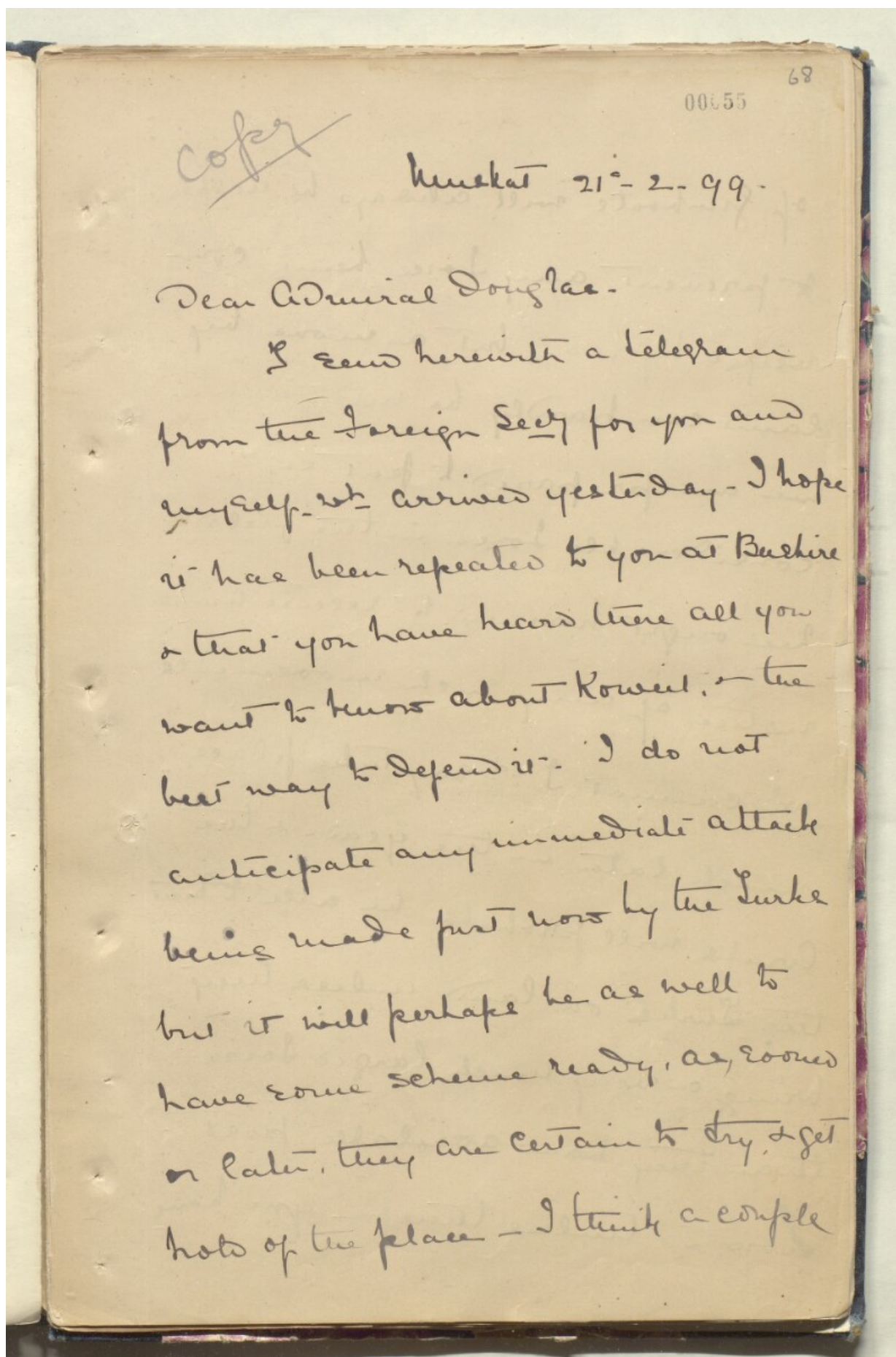


Tel. p. Foreign ~~to~~ Admiral & Resident ⁶⁷ 00054

If preparatory measures are found
necessary for defence of Koweit
against the Turkish attack please
send immediate information in
order to enable the Viceroy to afford
Her Majesty's ^{Govt.} opportunity to give
warning to Turkey before ~~forcible~~
forcible measures are used on
the spot to prevent such attack—

Received 20/2/99 - Foreign







of gunboats will always be ample
to prevent any force being con-
veyed by sea; but a move by
land can hardly be met, unless
we are prepared to put a
considerable force in the field -
we ought however to receive ample
notice of any such movements
- ~~we~~ cannot I ^{sd} say take place
much later in the year - & the
Arabs will probably be able to meet
the Turks on land, unless they
bring a very much larger force
than they have available just
now - Unless therefore you have



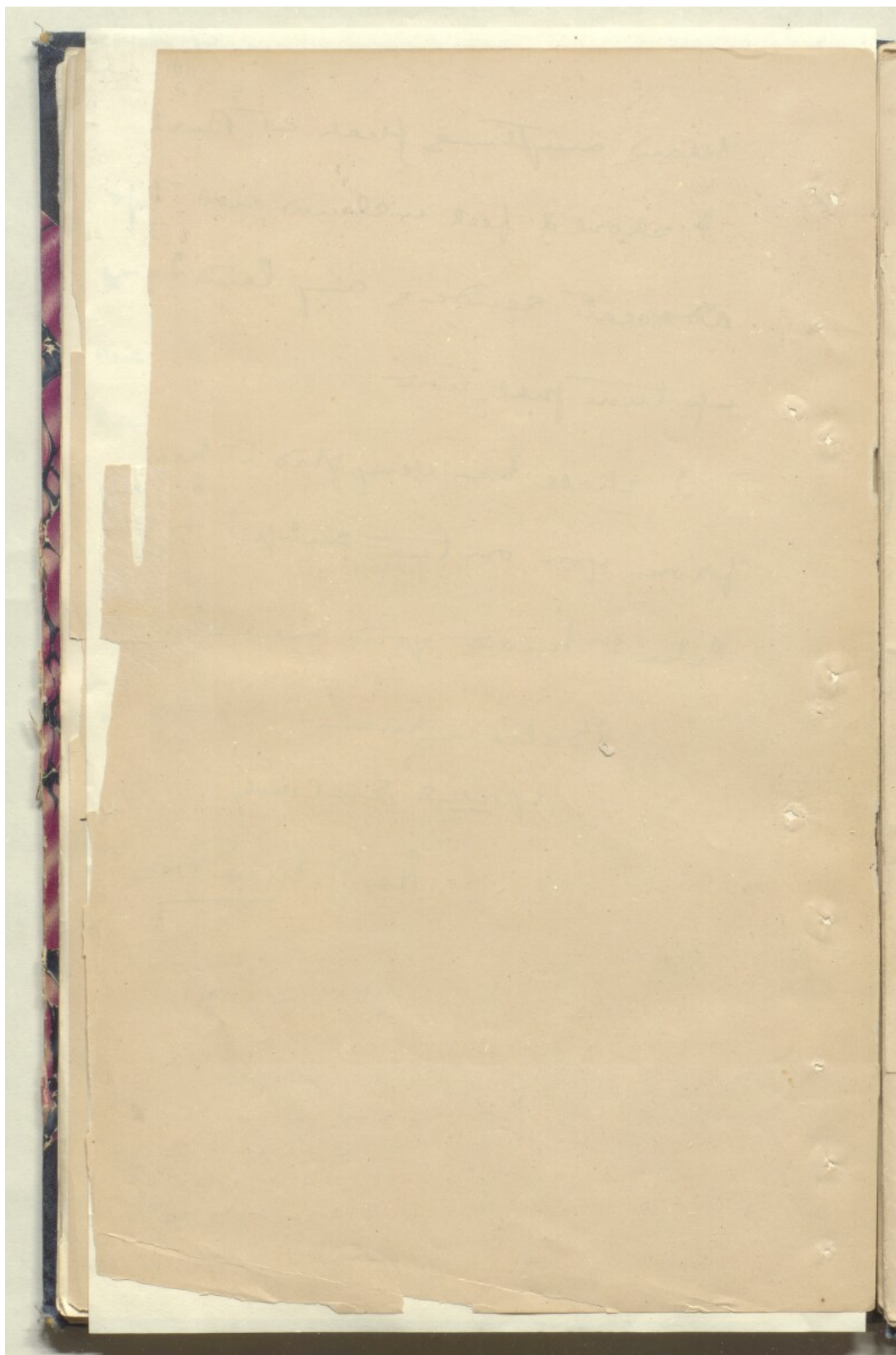
606.
69
heard anything fresh at Bush
I should feel inclined not to
advocate sending any land so
up there just now.

I shall be very glad to hear
from you on the subject & I
like to know your mind -

Believe me

Yours sincerely

H. J. Lucas





70
00057

Confidential.

Baghdad,
8th February, 1899.

Dear Colonel Meade,

I am in receipt of your
letter of the 18th ultimo.

Yes, I received the copy of a telegram
from the Government of India, ~~which~~
regarding a proposal to declare a
British protectorate over Koweit, which
you sent through the Consul at Basrah.

There can, I think, be no doubt
that a protectorate over Koweit would,
if effective, be of great advantage to us;
but the Government of India enquires



whether the proposal could be carried out without difficulty, and in my humble opinion it could not. I enclose a copy of a letter which I have sent to Government on the subject.

It seems to me that, if the Turks were to acquiesce in the proposal (I don't for a moment suppose that they would), they would certainly lose prestige in the eyes of other Arab Sheikhs, who are more or less nominally under Turkish rule and who would probably commence to give the Turks a good deal of trouble.

There is another point on which I have not touched in my letter to Government, partly because I am not quite sure about the matter. ~~must~~ Of course the integrity of the Ottoman Dominions was guaranteed by the treaty of Paris of 1856, but the provisions



00058 71

of that treaty were modified by the Berlin Conference, though I think the Powers gave a similar guarantee then. I have not got the full text of the Berlin treaty here, and I am therefore unable to ascertain whether I am right about this or not, but, if I am right, I take it that the Turks would promptly appeal to the other Powers in the event of our declaring a protectorate over Koweit. Of course we have never admitted that Turkey has anything to do with Koweit, but the Turks would naturally claim that the place is within the Ottoman Dominions, and I suppose that the question would have to be decided by the Powers. In that event, how would the majority of the Powers decide do you think? I may be all wrong about this, however.

By the way, in the Times Weekly edition of the 23rd December, mention is made



of a scheme to construct a railway from
Tripoli to Koweit, the syndicate interested
including English, French, Russian, and
Belgian elements. If there is any truth
in that report, would not another element
of difficulty be imported into the questions
of the protectorate?

Yours sincerely,

P. J. Melville



72
00059

Confidential.

From the Offg: Political Resident in Turkish Arabia
to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Foreign
Department, Calcutta, No. 27, dated the 31st January 1899.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have received,
through Her Majesty's Consul at Basrah, a copy of your
telegram to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, in
which I am directed to submit a report on a proposal that
Government should declare a protectorate over Koweit.

2. There can, I think, be no doubt that a protectorate
would be of immense advantage to us, but I fear that this
could not be done without difficulty. I am aware that Her
Majesty's Government has never acknowledged Koweit to be
under Turkish protection, but I am convinced that the Porte
would claim that it is so and would resist any attempt on our
part to protect the Sheikh. Indeed, if the Turks were to hear
positively that the Sheikh was about to place himself under
our protection, it is very-likely- my belief that they would
promptly remove him by force. This they could easily do, for I
am informed that Koweit is unprotected on the land side, and
the Turks could bring a large body of troops against it in a
comparatively short time. In this connection, I may mention
that there are persistent rumours that the garrison of Basrah
is about to be increased, and it seems probable that these
rumours are not without foundation, for the status of the
Basrah command has been recently raised, a Commander-in-Chief
having been
being posted there.

3. Although Her Majesty's Government has never
acknowledged Koweit to be under Turkish protection, the Turks
would perhaps have reason to protest against another power
declaring a protectorate over the place. So long ago as 1856
though



though their allegiance was stated to be merely nominal and though, apparently, they paid no tribute, the inhabitants of Koweit acknowledged the sovereignty of the Ottoman Porte,

and used the Turkish flag,*

and the state of affairs was

very much the same in 1887.†

* Bombay Govt. Records, No. XXIV. New series Persian Gulf 1856. Page 296.

† Gazetteer of Arabia, Page 44.

Recently the Turks have taken a considerable amount of interest in the affairs of Koweit, and it is said that the rumoured increase in the Basrah garrison is not unconnected with a suspicion that we wish to take Koweit under our protection. I am informed, too, (though I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the information) that the present Sheikh now pays tribute to the Turks.

4. As you are aware, the present Sheikh of Koweit, Mubarak, murdered his elder brother, Muhammad Pasha, in May 1896, and took possession of the Sheikhship. Mubarak immediately approached the Porte with a view to being recognised, and the heirs of Muhammad Pasha also appealed to the Turks. It would therefore appear that the people of Koweit themselves acknowledge Turkish sovereignty, though that sovereignty may be of a somewhat shadowy character. I enclose copies of memoranda on this subject by the dragoman of the Basrah Consulate and by Her Majesty's Consul, dated the 19th October 1896 and the 12th July 1897 respectively.

I have the honour &c.

(signed) P.J. Melvill, Major.



73

00060

Memorandum by Basrah Consular Dragoman, dated the
19th October 1896.

Sheikh Mubarak who in May last killed his two
brothers Muhammad Pasha and Jerrah of Koweit, when they were
Sheikh of Koweit. in their harems, is communicating with the Sublime
Porte assuring the Sultan that his late brothers were killed
by the Bedouins when he was away from the town and that he
(Mubarak) was one of His Imperial Majesty's loyal subjects.
He therefore requested that he be appointed Sheikh of Koweit
in the place of his brother.

Sheikh Saood and Sheikh Sabah, sons of the murdered
Sheikh, Muhammad Pasha, with two younger brothers have com-
-plained and appealed to the Sultan stating that their
father's murderer was their uncle Mubarak. They also claimed
that their landed and other properties which have been
seized by Mubarak may be restored to them as per title deeds
they possess. They furthermore prayed that their uncle may be
punished according to law adding that if their prayer was
refused they would do what they thought just.

They have engaged two lawyers (from Baghdad and
here) who have succeeded in obtaining an order from the
Kazi's Court to sequester the present year's date crops of
their father's gardens, and the Court appointed Hajji Muhammad
Chelebi Abdul Wahid, a member of the Administrative Council, to
be the Receiver.

Haji Muhammad with an official and followers went
to Fao in a launch taking with him the necessary instructions
from the Wali to the Mudir of Fao. The latter however took
part of Sheikh Mubarak and prevented Muhammad Chelebi from
taking any action in the matter. He afterwards sent private
information to Mubarak through Sheikh Jabir (brother of
Mubarak) whereupon Mubarak despatched to Fao 500 armed men to
fight



fight and prevent Muhammad Chelebi from sequestering the dates
which was given to the "Sarkars" by Mubarak. * Contractors.

On Muhammad Chelebi's return to Basrah several complaints were submitted to the Sublime Porte who enquired from H.E. the Wali in the matter. His Excellency supported the late Pasha's sons. His Excellency also pointed out to the Porte certain benefits that would accrue from support being given to the sons and tried to induce the Porte to establish formal departments at Koweit and to appoint a Mutasarif and station a battalion of infantry. He undertook to arrange this matter without difficulty by assisting the late Pasha's sons.

It is reported that Sheikh Mubarak has sent thousands of Liras to some officials at Constantinople and Baghdad to support him in his endeavours to obtain from the Sublime Porte the recognition of his appointment. But the Pasha's sons are trying to punish him as the murderer of their father.

(signed) M. Mark.



00061

74

Memorandum by H.E.M.'s Consul, Basrah, dated the 12th July 1897.

Sheikh Saood, second son of the late Sheikh of Koweit (Muhammad Pasha) who was murdered by Sheikh Mubarak last year paid me a visit on the 10th July, Saturday, at 3.30 P.M. Lieut. Commander Mowbray of H.M.S. "Pigeon" was present at the interview.

The elder brother Sheikh Sabah was unwell and unable to visit me as *he* had originally intended.

Saood is an intelligent looking youth about 20 years of age but has the appearance of being rather a weak character.

After the usual compliments I invited him to say anything he had to say, whereupon he told me that his father had been murdered by Sheikh Mubarak, adding that he and his brother Sabah escaped by fleeing to the desert and claiming the protection of some Bedouin Sheikh (he did not mention the name), who had his brother and himself safely escorted to Dora the residence of their uncle Yusuf bin Ibrahim Sheikh of that place.

Mubarak seized everything they had including some date gardens near Fao. The sons of the murdered Sheikh appealed to the Sultan for redress and requested that the usurper Mubarak might be turned out and that they might be restored to their position and property.

In the meanwhile Mubarak had written to the Sultan asking that he might be confirmed as Sheikh, declaring that he had not murdered his brother and in order to obtain influential support *he* proceeded to wholesale bribery, bribing amongst others the Mushir at Baghdad to whom he gave several thousand Liras.

The Turkish Government sequestered the property at Fao



Fao but Mubarak sent up armed men to Fao and took the date crops by force.

Saood then went on to beg that the British Govt. would give the brothers their support declaring that his brother would unreservedly place himself under British protection and would do everything the British Government wished him to do. He also begged me to use my good offices to induce Jamal Maimani a British Indian merchant here to rent the date gardens at Fao: his idea being that if Jamal Maimani rented the garden it would be incumbent on the British Govt. to see that his property was not interfered with in any way. I merely replied that I would inform my superior authorities what Sheikh Saood had said to me and would inform him of any reply they might send.

I then asked Sheikh Saood where his Uncle Yusuf bin Ibrahim was and he replied that he had no accurate information where he was, but he ~~had~~ admitted that his uncle had made the recent attack on Koweit and that he had with him seven baghlas and about 700 armed men. The interview then ended.

(signed) C.G.F. Pagan.

Major.

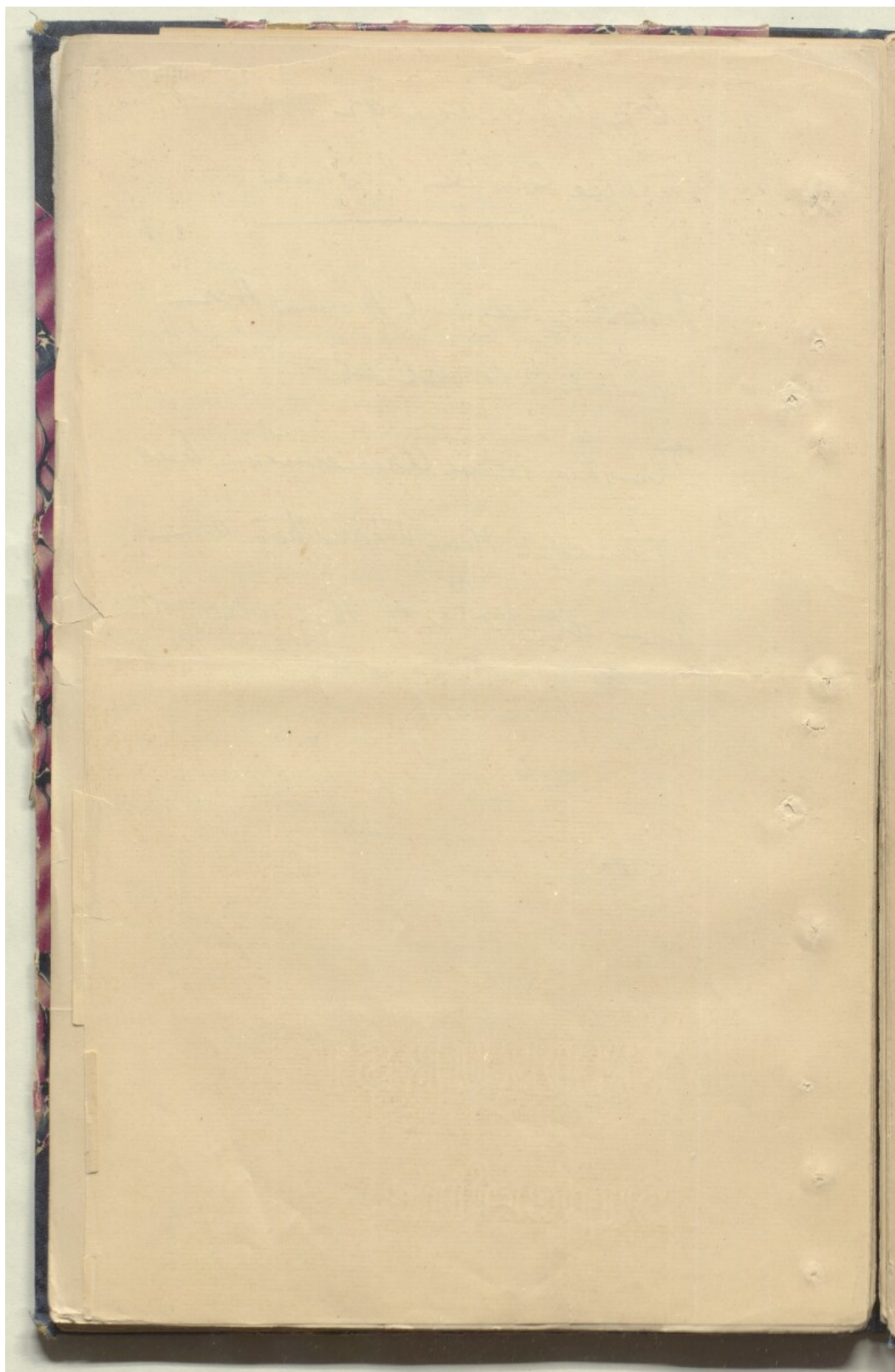


00062 75
Tel. p. Ambassador Constantinople
to Vice Consul, Bushia

Following received from Her
Majesty's Consul at Bueche -
The Russian American has
returned - The other two are
now at Koweit. They are both
Muslims -

Received 6/3/99

Wson





Confidential

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No 38 - E/A.

*100
24/99 W.S.*

A copy of the foregoing prints is forwarded confidentially to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information.

By order, etc.,

S F Bayley

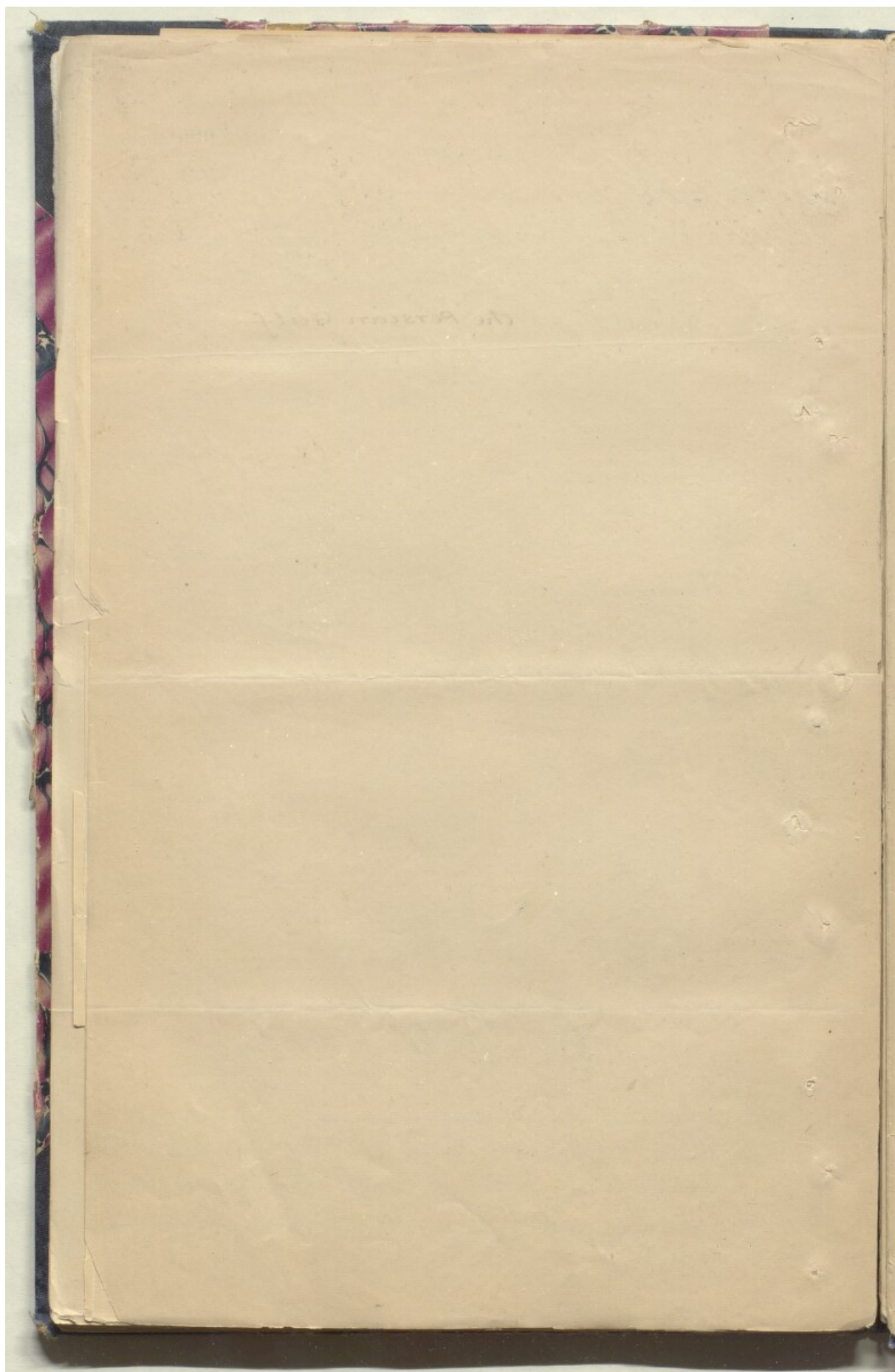
*Assistant Secretary to the
Government of India.*

Foreign Deptt.

Fort William,

The 11th January 1899.

Asia Confidential Prints, section 1, dated the 5th August and section 2, dated the 7th October and section 1, dated the 27th October and 3rd November 1898.





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ASIA.

[August 5.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 426. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 1, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a translation which I have obtained privately of a Petition recently presented by Count Kapnist, nephew of the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, to the Ottoman Minister of Public Works, applying for the Concession of a railway from Tripoli, in Syria, to the Persian Gulf.

The course of the proposed line is not quite clearly shown in the document, but as a right of preference is demanded for constructing branch lines to the north from Homs and Miadin (Meyadin), it would seem that it is intended to take the line through those two places. From Miadin its course seems to lie in the general direction of the Euphrates as far as Nedjef, whence there is to be a branch for Kerbela and Bagdad.

The line is to terminate at Koweit.

Preferential rights are reserved for an extension from Bagdad to Mosul and Diarbekir.

In the conversation with Dr. Zander, Director of the Anatolian Railway in Constantinople, of which I sent a summary to your Lordship in my telegram No. 153, Confidential, of the 30th ultimo, I inquired of that gentleman what he thought of this scheme. He said his Company were, of course, watching it, but that they did not regard it as a very serious proposal, or one that was at all likely to be carried out.

Mr. Marinitch, Acting First Dragoman, hears, however, that the Russian proposal is backed by French capitalists; that it is favourably viewed by a number of influential persons at the Porte; and that the Russian Embassy will be instructed to support it.

It is understood that Count Kapnist has waived his demand for a guarantee, and is now ready to build the line without one.

I shall have the honour to report further to your Lordship on the subject of Dr. Zander's proposals by next mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Petition.

(Translation.)

I REQUEST that a Concession may be granted to me for the construction and working of a line of railway from the Mediterranean to the Gulf of Bassorah, with a 6 per cent. guarantee from the Imperial Government, and upon the following conditions:—

1. The building and working of a line from Tripoli, in Syria, to Koweit, on the Persian Gulf, the line to be built to admit of a speed of 60 kilom. per hour; the building of a branch line starting from Hanekin, on the Persian frontier, passing through Bagdad and Moussaïb (on the Euphrates) to Nejj and Kerbela; and the construction of ports at Tripoli, in Syria, and Koweit.

2. The right of preference for the building and the working of the following lines:—

(a.) From Homs to Aleppo.

(β.) One from Miadin, passing through Deir northwards.

(γ.) One from Bagdad to Mosul and Diarbekir.

(δ.) One from Koot-el-Amara, on the Tigris, as far as the Euphrates, along the bank of the Shat-el-Hadi.

(ε.) One from Alexandretta or Suedia to Aleppo and Birejik.

[1539 p—1]



3. All State lands required for the construction of such lines and ports, and their appurtenances, as well as all State stone-quarries necessary, to be placed gratuitously at the disposal of the concessionnaire.

4. The line to be a single one, of broad gauge, but the land given must admit of a second line being built later on.

5. All tools and implements required for the construction of such lines and ports to be free from all customs and other duties.

6. The tariffs for passengers and goods to be the same as those now in force in Turkey.

7. The concessionnaire will form a "Société Anonyme" of Ottoman nationality, the internal Statutes of which will be submitted to the approval of the Imperial Government.

8. The sole right of building stations and stopping-places by waters and rivers to be met with in the districts traversed by the railways, as well as store-houses and depôts at the said stations, as well as the towns through which the line will pass, to be exclusively reserved to the concessionnaire.

9. The right of draining and irrigating the lands in the neighbourhood of the Tigris, Euphrates, Shat-e' Hindié, and Shat-el-Arab, to belong to the concessionnaire, the conditions to be identical with those accepted by the Imperial Government in similar undertakings.

10. The concessionnaire will enjoy the right of making the necessary constructions for improving the channel of the above-enumerated rivers and canals, and of navigating them.

11. The concessionnaire will enjoy the right of working any mines or deposits of petroleum or naptha to be discovered within 50 kilom. of the centre of the railway, the concession of which has not yet been accorded to any other person.

I have submitted to His Imperial Majesty the contents of this Petition, and am ready to discuss with the competent Department the Contract to be drawn up, and the terms and conditions of the *cahier des charges*.



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ASIA.

[October 17.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 525.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 6, 1898.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 13, Commercial, of the 1st instant, informing me of the financial position of Messrs. S. Meger and Co., who are interested in Count Kapnist's railway scheme, and desire that their respectability may be vouched for if inquiries are made.

I shall bear this information in mind, but I venture to remark that the undertaking in question, of which some account is given in Mr. de Bunsen's despatch No. 426 of the 1st August, is a very far-reaching one, extending over regions in the development of which British trade is deeply interested, and that it is likely, if carried out, to come in conflict with other railway projects for reaching the Euphrates and Persian Gulf, which would be more favourable to the British interests involved. I understand that a plan is now on foot for completing the Haifa Railway to Damascus, and carrying it eventually across the desert to Bagdad and Basrah. It is too early to say whether this particular British enterprise is worthy of encouragement. But, if there is to be railway communication with the Persian Gulf, it would seem undesirable to leave it to be carried out by a Russian Company which leans on its own Government, who would reap the political advantages, for support, but seeks the necessary capital in England.

I am informed that between 12,000,000*l.* and 20,000,000*l.* would be required to complete Count Kapnist's scheme. The Porte is understood to be resolutely opposed to granting kilometric guarantees in future. The financial success of the project is therefore more than doubtful. Its promoters would perhaps be satisfied if it attained the political result of keeping British Companies out of the field.

I should hesitate at all events to encourage British participation in it until we know more of its scope and results.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 2.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 538.)

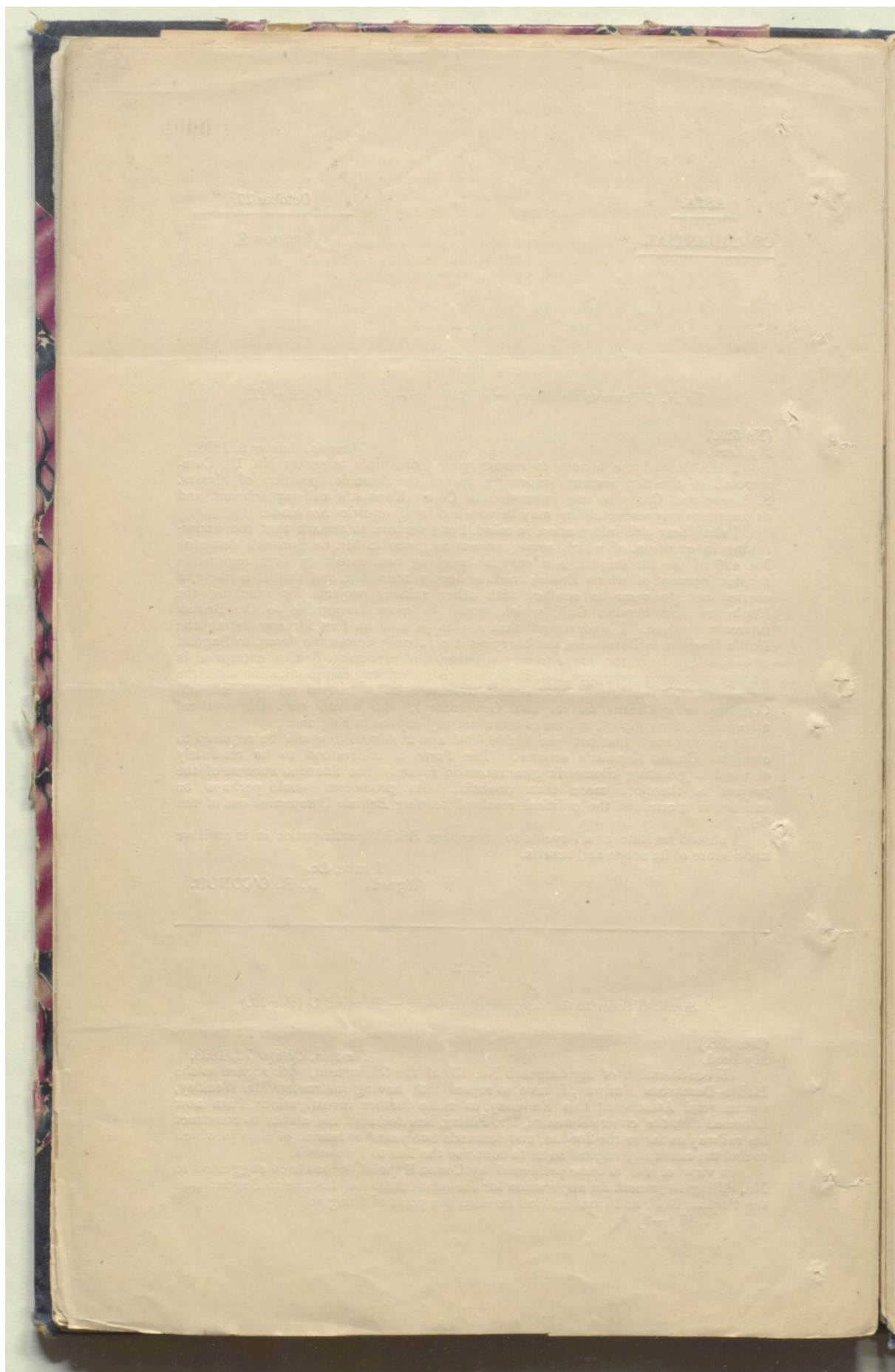
My Lord,

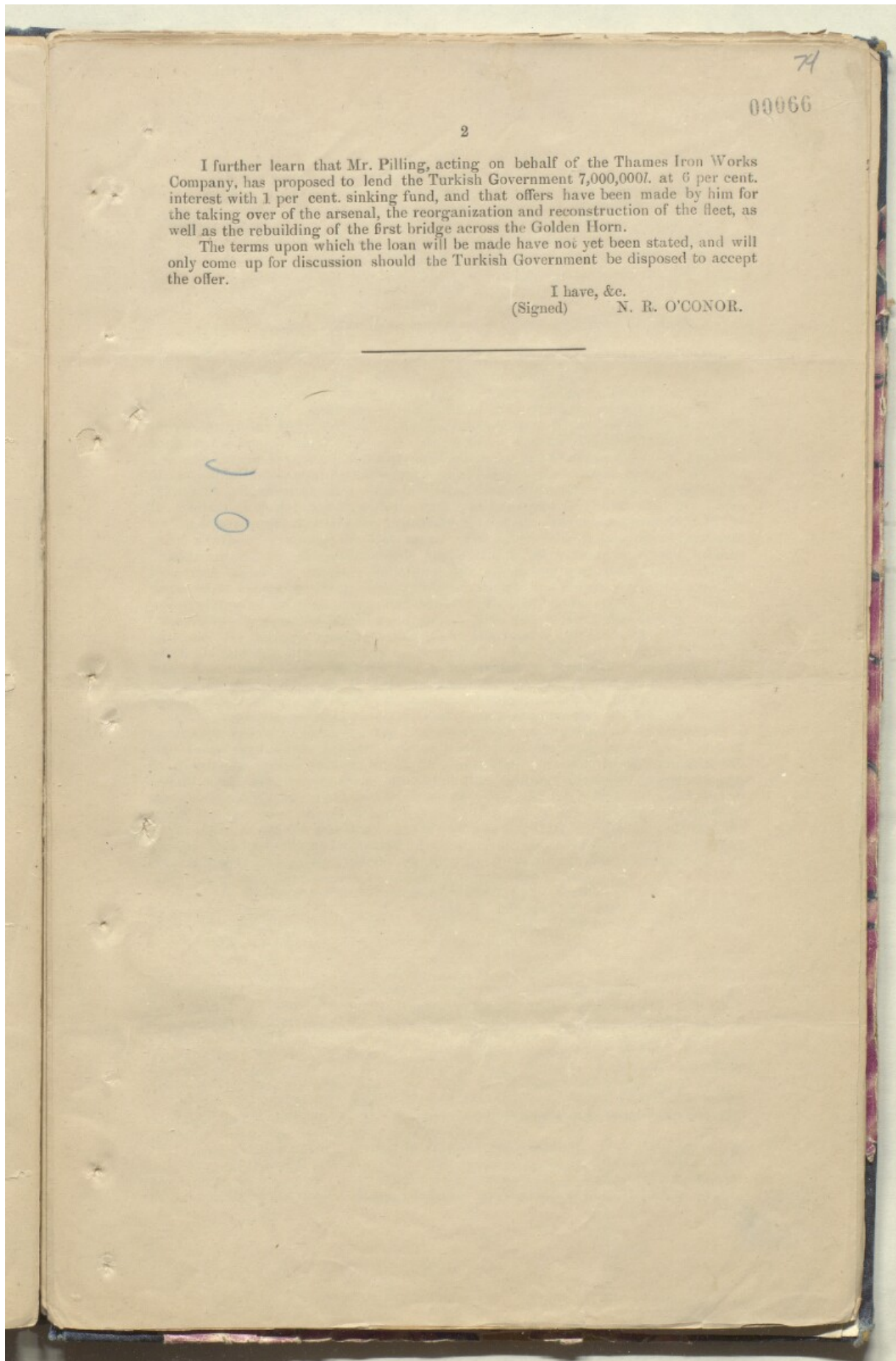
Therapia, October 12, 1898.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 525 of the 6th instant, with regard to the Haifa-Damascus Railway, I have to report that having instructed Mr. Weakley, Commercial Attaché at this Embassy, to make further investigations, I am now informed that the concessionnaire, Mr. Pilling, has declared his ability to construct his railway as far as the Jordan, and demands two years' extension of time in which to find the necessary capital so as to continue the line to Damascus.

In view of the scheme presented by Count Kapnist, it has been suggested to Mr. Pilling to present an application for the continuation of his line to Bagdad and the Persian Gulf, and I understand he is on the point of doing so.

[1649 k-2]



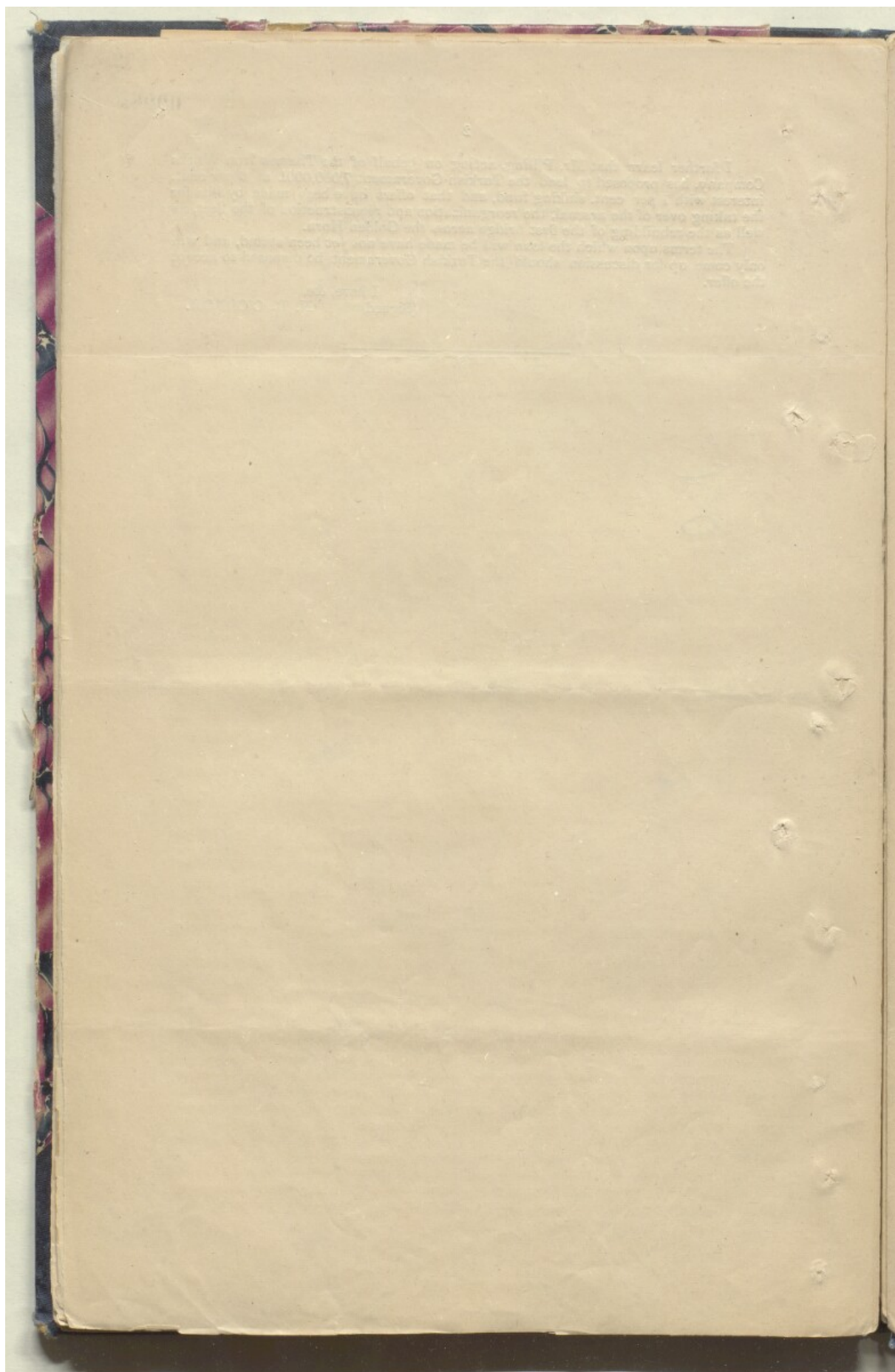


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I further learn that Mr. Pilling, acting on behalf of the Thames Iron Works Company, has proposed to lend the Turkish Government 7,000,000*l.* at 6 per cent. interest with 1 per cent. sinking fund, and that offers have been made by him for the taking over of the arsenal, the reorganization and reconstruction of the fleet, as well as the rebuilding of the first bridge across the Golden Horn.

The terms upon which the loan will be made have not yet been stated, and will only come up for discussion should the Turkish Government be disposed to accept the offer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.





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ASIA.

[October 27.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Messrs. Williams, Meyer, and Co. to Foreign Office.—(Received October 27.)

Sir, 6, Tokenhouse Yard, London, October 25, 1898.
WITH reference to the interview which you were good enough to accord on Saturday last to our senior partner, Mr. Gerald Walton Williams, and to your request to be furnished with a summary of our position and intentions in connection with the projected railway from Tripoli on the Mediterranean to Koneit on the Persian Gulf, we have the honour to inform you that the scheme, as detailed in the inclosed copy of Count Wladimir Ivanovitch Kapnist's application for the Concession to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, was placed before us some time since by some mutual friends of the Count and ourselves, they being interested with the Count by private agreement in the realization of the project, with the view that our firm should consent to give them its financial support through the instrumentality of its influential connection, in the event of their obtaining the Concession. The scheme being one of international importance, and the Concession being applied for in the name of a Russian subject, our first stipulation before entertaining the suggestion was that Her Majesty's Government should not be opposed to the realization of the project. On this head, we were informed that the scheme had been unofficially communicated to the Foreign Office both by a printed Memorandum in English giving particulars thereof, and by letters of Mr. Edward Easton to the Right Honourable the Marquess of Salisbury, which his Lordship had graciously acknowledged. We were further given to understand that these communications had so far elicited no expression of disapproval on the part of the Government as to the proposed scheme, and that our informants had no reason to anticipate the raising of any official objections thereto in principle.

We thereupon satisfied ourselves that Count Kapnist and his friends stood a reasonable chance of obtaining the Concession, and, having done so, we consented to give them the desired support, at the same time obtaining from Mr. Leopold de Rothschild (whose firm we must, however, state will not, at all events in the present stage, take any financial interest in the venture) a letter of introduction to Mr. Henry St. George Foley at the Foreign Office, in order that the Government should be apprised of our position in regard to the matter and satisfied in respect to our financial reputation and standing. We were subsequently informed by Mr. Easton that the Foreign Office had acquainted their Excellencies the British Ambassadors at Constantinople and at St. Petersburg that the Government had cognizance of the scheme, and that it appeared to be backed by responsible persons.

Our Mr. Williams had been favoured, on the 27th September, with an interview by his Excellency the Turkish Ambassador in London, at which his Excellency expressed himself pleased at the prospect of English interests being adequately represented in a scheme of such importance to his own country.

Last week we received advices from Constantinople that the application for the Concession had been officially put forward, and that there was every prospect of an *Irade* being granted in its favour within a very short period provided certain moneys were lodged in trust for the eventual benefit of sundry persons who had been instrumental in furthering the applicant's interests. The time for action having arrived, we cabled in reply that one of the partners of our firm would proceed to Constantinople this week or next, with full powers to negotiate on behalf of our firm. But before committing ourselves further, we were desirous of assuring ourselves personally that Her Majesty's Government were not opposed to the project in principle, even if they did not see their way at the present juncture to lend us their active moral assistance, and to that end our Mr. Gerald Walton Williams sought the honour of the interview, which you were so kind as to grant him.

As you will have gathered from the printed Memorandum already alluded to, it has been estimated that the total cost of the undertaking would amount to somewhat over 10,000,000*l.*, allowing for the construction and equipment of a railway of standard gauge, capable of maintaining a mean speed of 40 miles per hour throughout, as well

[1649 g—1]



as for the necessary works to protect the harbours at each terminus and render them safe in all weathers for anchorage, with a 10 per cent. margin for contingencies.

From other sources we are given to understand that the above estimate may be too low, and in order that an unduly sanguine view should not be adopted as a basis, we have assumed that for all practical purposes the flotation of the Company would involve the raising of a capital of something like 15,000,000*l.*, not all at the same time, of course, but by successive issues of various types judiciously spread over the period of construction. Such a capital seems very great when looked at by itself, but it is not so large when compared with that of other undertakings of similar magnitude, and it is estimated that the railway with its branches, comprising over 1,000 miles of track, would, when completed, earn enough to yield a remunerative return upon such outlay, leaving out of the question the Turkish guarantee, to be conceded upon security of tithes in the provinces traversed, of 6 per cent. on a prescribed amount of capital per kilometre constructed. In support of the contention that the suggested capital would not be excessive, we may mention that in the case of the Smyrna and Cassaba Railway (a much less important enterprise), the issue of 4 per cent. obligations has been sanctioned for the purpose of constructing the extensions to Afium Kara Hissar, at the rate of 280,000 fr. per kilometre, which would be equivalent to an aggregate of over 19,000*l.* for the railroad now under discussion, inclusive of its proposed branches. But it must be understood that we ourselves, as stockbrokers, are incompetent to criticise or indorse the technical estimates of railway engineers, and that we cannot hold ourselves responsible for the cost of construction and probable traffic as estimated by experts who know the country.

It is evident that, if the Concession is obtained, a regular, careful, and competent survey of the proposed line will have to be made on behalf of the purchasers of the Concession before final estimates can be drawn up, and a public Company be floated. To that end, we propose, assuming the Iradé to be granted and subsequently confirmed by Imperial Firman, to then form a Syndicate with a capital of about 150,000*l.*, which Syndicate would acquire from the concessionnaire the right to purchase from him the Concession at a figure to be agreed upon, in consideration of refunding to him and his group the preliminary expenses so far incurred, supplying the caution money required by the Porte, and the funds necessary for the full survey and other disbursements preparatory to the formation of a public Company. In due time an appeal to the public would be necessary, and thereupon a Company would be formed to which the Syndicate would transfer its rights and privileges in consideration of the reimbursement of its expenses and a profit commensurate with the risks incurred.

It is naturally difficult to estimate the prospects of raising the capital required for an undertaking which is still in the period of incubation, but we entertain no doubt that, with the Concession in hand and the tacit approval of Her Majesty's Government, we should be able to secure the necessary financial support to carry the matter to a successful issue.

It has been stipulated by Count Kapnist that there shall be reserved half the capital of the Company for issue in Russia, and half its representation on the Board of Directors for persons of Russian nationality. We may point out that the first of these stipulations does not imply that the Russian Government as such shall be entitled to claim a half or any share of proprietorship in the undertaking, but simply that one-half of the capital shall be offered for public subscription in the country. We should, furthermore, negotiate on the basis that Russian representation on the Board should be proportionate to the amount of capital subscribed in Russia, without in any case exceeding half the full strength of the Board. Although the proprietorship of the undertaking must, we understand, according to Turkish law, be nominally vested in an Ottoman Society, the undertaking would in reality belong to the English Company through possession of all the shares in the Ottoman Society.

The above are the main features of the case as it at present stands outside of the scheme itself, with the details of which you are conversant, but we shall be very pleased to furnish you with any further information that you may desire to have, and that it may be in our power to communicate. Meanwhile, it is the intention of our Mr. Augustus Meyers, or, failing him, of our Mr. Gerald Walton Williams, to start on Sunday next for Constantinople, as promised, to assure himself of the substantial prospects held out of the early signature of an Iradé in Count Kapnist's favour, and in such case to make such preliminary financial arrangements on behalf of our firm as he may consider justifiable under the circumstances.

Needless to add that we shall only act on the assumption that Her Majesty's Government, having been apprised to the best of our ability with the main facts of the



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situation, entertain no objection to the scheme in principle, and that, in the contrary event, we shall, upon your condescending to intimate to us that the scheme is officially disapproved, immediately withdraw from the matter.

We take leave to assure you of our paramount wish to act in entire consonance with the views of Her Majesty's Government, and you may rely upon our transmitting to you all essential information which it may interest you to receive as to the eventual progress of the negotiations. If you would permit our partner to give himself the honour of presenting himself to his Excellency the British Ambassador at Constantinople, he would there be in a position to supply more precise and more detailed particulars both of the project itself and of Count Kapnist's prospects of success, after personal investigation on the spot and conference with the various parties concerned.

We do not consider it within our province to allude here to any political advantages which the scheme may possess from an English point of view, Her Majesty's Government being perfectly acquainted with the subject, but we may perhaps be allowed, in conclusion, to express our very humble opinion that, if Russian subjects were to obtain the Concession, it would be desirable that they should admit to an equal share of its benefits members of our own nationality rather than those of another Power. And there can be little doubt that, if the project is now dropped by the British interests, their abandoned opportunity will be eagerly seized by some financial group of another nationality, anxious for political as well as for financial reasons to acquire increased influence in the country.

We have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAMS, MEYER, AND CO.

P.S.—We have just had the honour to receive from the Under-Secretary of State a letter of introduction to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in favour of our Mr. Williams, for which we are exceedingly obliged.

W., M., AND CO.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memorial.

A Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan II, El Ghazi.

Sire,

J'AI l'honneur de prier humblement votre Majesté Impériale de daigner m'accorder une Concession pour la construction et l'exploitation d'une ligne de chemin de fer qui devra relier la Méditerranée au Golfe Persique, avec une garantie de l'Etat de 6 pour cent, aux conditions suivantes ou aux telles autres que votre Majesté Impériale trouvera bon de fixer :—

1. La Concession pour la construction et l'exploitation d'une ligne ferrée de Tripoli sur la Méditerranée jusqu'à Koneit sur le Golfe Persique, pouvant transporter des trains parcourant 60 kilom. par heure; et la construction et l'exploitation des embranchements de Hanikin, sur la frontière Persane, à Kerbela et à Nedjef par Bagdad et Moussayib sur l'Euphrate; ainsi que la construction et l'exploitation des ports de Tripoli et de Koneit.

2. Le droit de préférence pour la construction et l'exploitation des lignes de chemin de fer suivantes :—

- (a.) De Koms à Alep.
- (b.) De Miyadin vers le nord en passant par Deir.
- (c.) De Bagdad à Moussoul et Diarbekir.
- (d.) De Kout-el-Amara sur le Tigre jusqu'à l'Euphrate en allant le long du Chattul-Hai.
- (e.) D'Alexandrette (ou de Shedich) à Alepet à Bizedjik.

3. Les terrains et les carrières appartenant à l'Etat et nécessaires à la construction de la voie et des ports et de leurs dépendances seront accordés gratuitement au concessionnaire.

4. La ligne sera construite à une seule voie d'une largeur normale, mais l'expropriation sera faite en vue de la construction d'une double voie.

5. Les matériaux et le matériel destinés à servir à la construction de ces lignes et des ports seront exempts de tous droits et impôts quelconques.



6. Le tarif pour les marchandises et les voyageurs sera le même qu'actuellement en vigueur dans l'Empire Ottoman.

7. Le concessionnaire formera une Société Ottomane Anonyme dont les Statuts seront approuvés par le Gouvernement Impérial.

8. Le concessionnaire aura le droit exclusif d'établir des débarcadères et des stations sur les rivières et fleuves, ainsi que des dépôts et magasins dans les stations et dans les villes se trouvant dans la zone du chemin de fer.

9. Le concessionnaire aura le droit de dessécher et d'arroser les terrains dans les bassins du Tigre, de l'Euphrate, du Chatt-el-Hindieh, du Chatt-el-Haï, et du Chatt-el-Arab, dans les mêmes conditions déjà approuvées par le Gouvernement Impérial pour des entreprises analogues.

10. Le concessionnaire aura le droit de construire des bâtiments nécessaires pour la régularisation des fleuves et rivières ci-dessus mentionnés, ainsi que de les naviguer.

11. Le concessionnaire aura le droit d'exploiter toutes les mines et toutes les sources de pétrole et bitume pas encore concédées et se trouvant dans une zone de 50 kilom. de chaque côté de l'axe de la ligne.

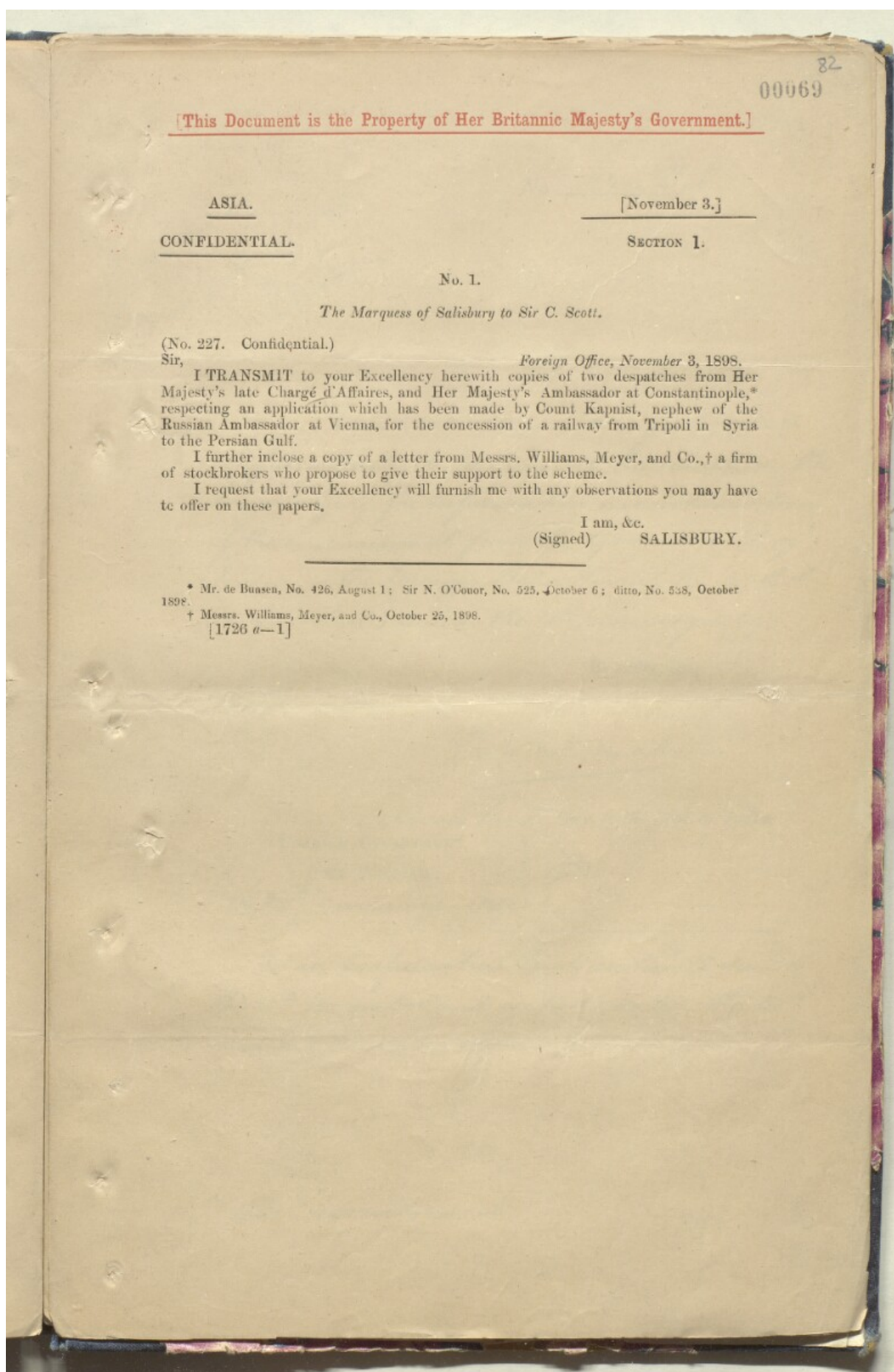
Votre Majesté Impériale connaît mieux que personne les immenses avantages qui résulteraient de la réalisation de ce projet pour l'agriculture et le commerce de cette partie importante de son vaste empire, et avant de prendre la liberté de le soumettre à votre Majesté Impériale j'ai eu soin de consulter les capitalistes de l'Europe et je me suis assuré de leur coopération.

Que votre Majesté Impériale daigne ordonner à la Sublime Porte d'examiner le projet avec toute la bienveillance qu'il mérite, projet dont la réalisation doterait l'Empire de votre Majesté Impériale de l'œuvre la plus grandiose de ce siècle.

Que votre Majesté Impériale daigne agréer, &c.

(Signé) Count WLADIMIR IVANOVITCH KAPNIST

Heidelberg, le 9 (27) Juin, 1898.



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ASIA.

[November 3.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. Scott.

(No. 227. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 3, 1898.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's late Chargé d'Affaires, and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* respecting an application which has been made by Count Kapnist, nephew of the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, for the concession of a railway from Tripoli in Syria to the Persian Gulf.

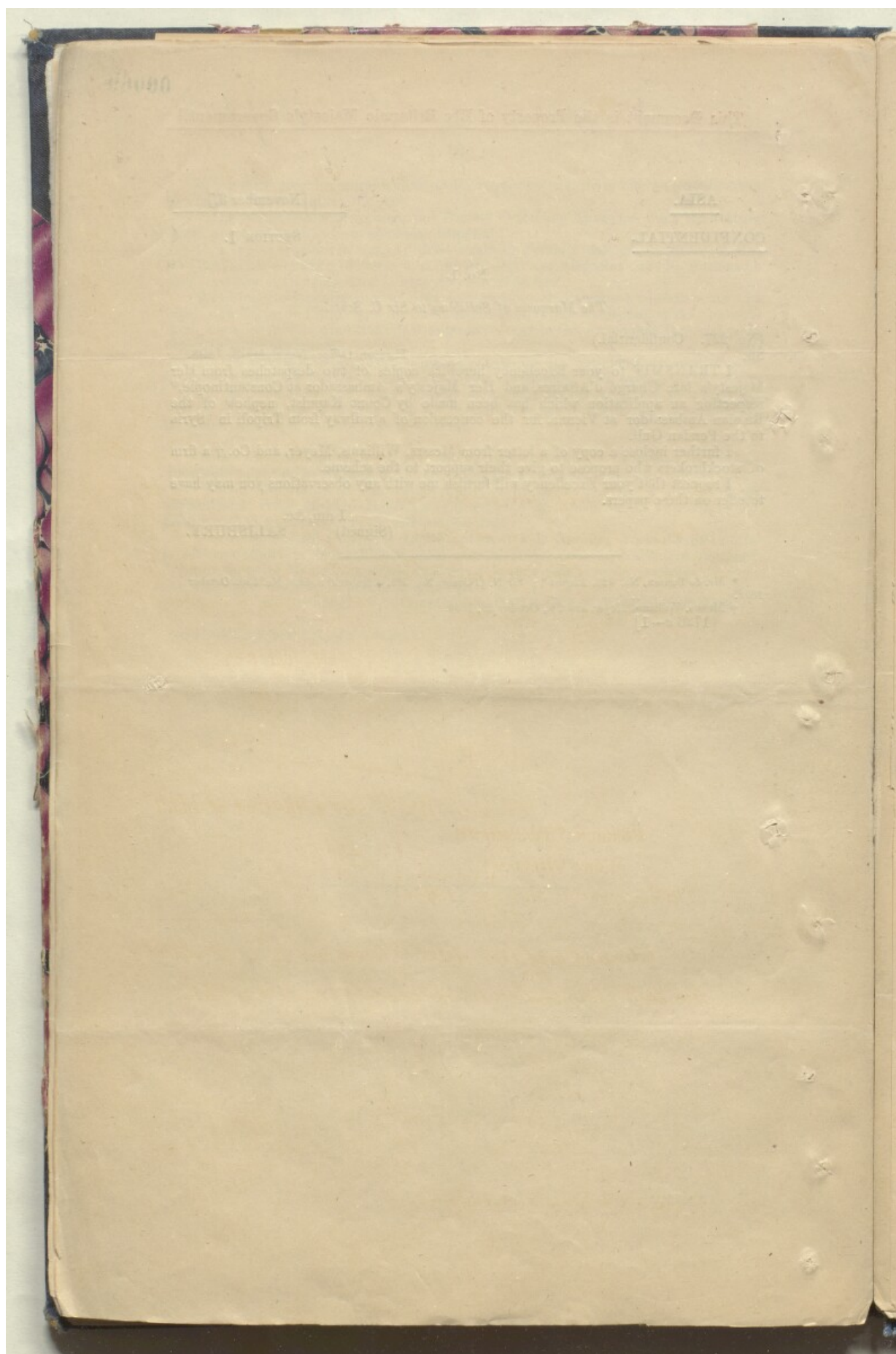
I further inclose a copy of a letter from Messrs. Williams, Meyer, and Co.,† a firm of stockbrokers who propose to give their support to the scheme.

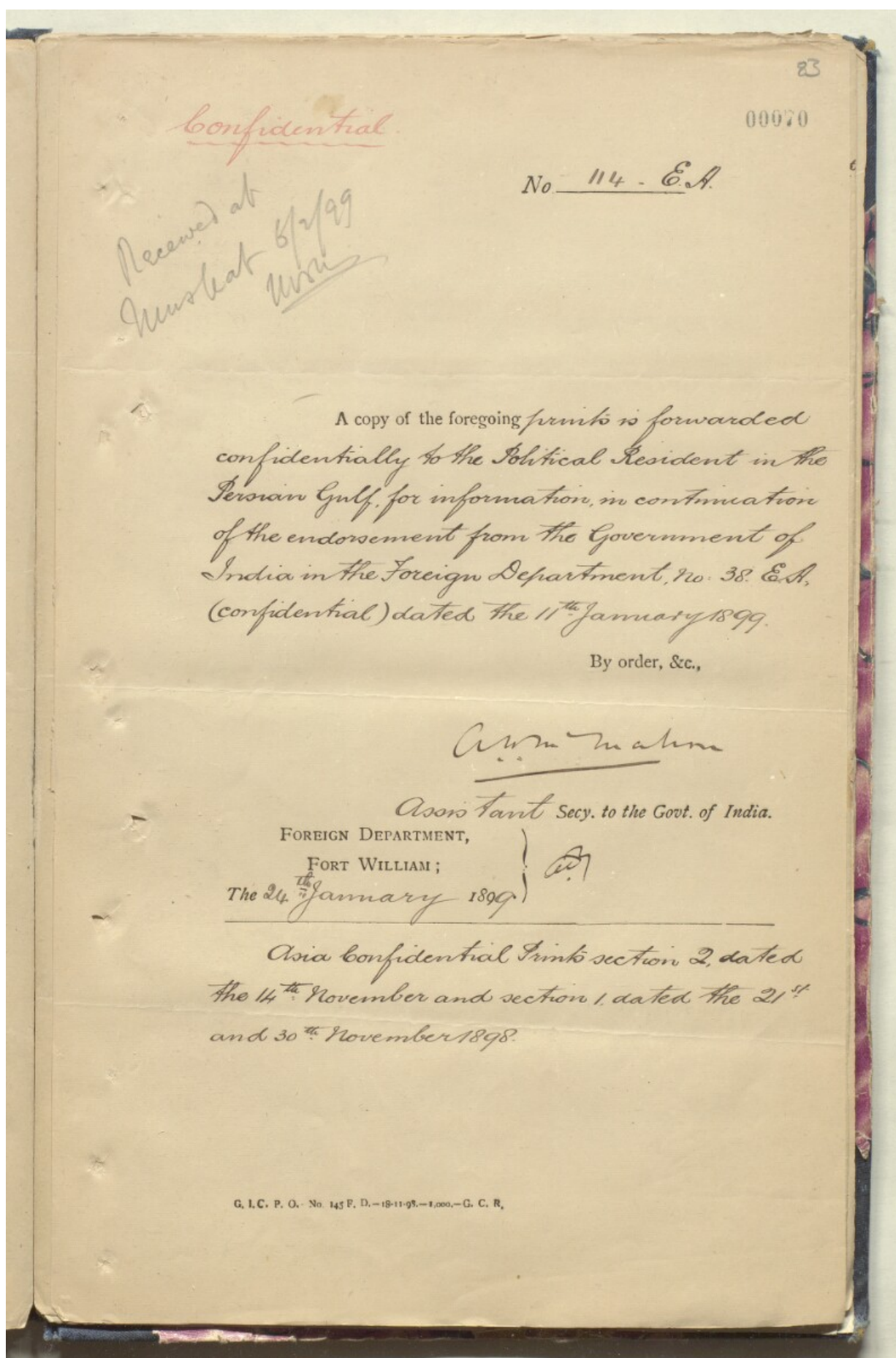
I request that your Excellency will furnish me with any observations you may have to offer on these papers.

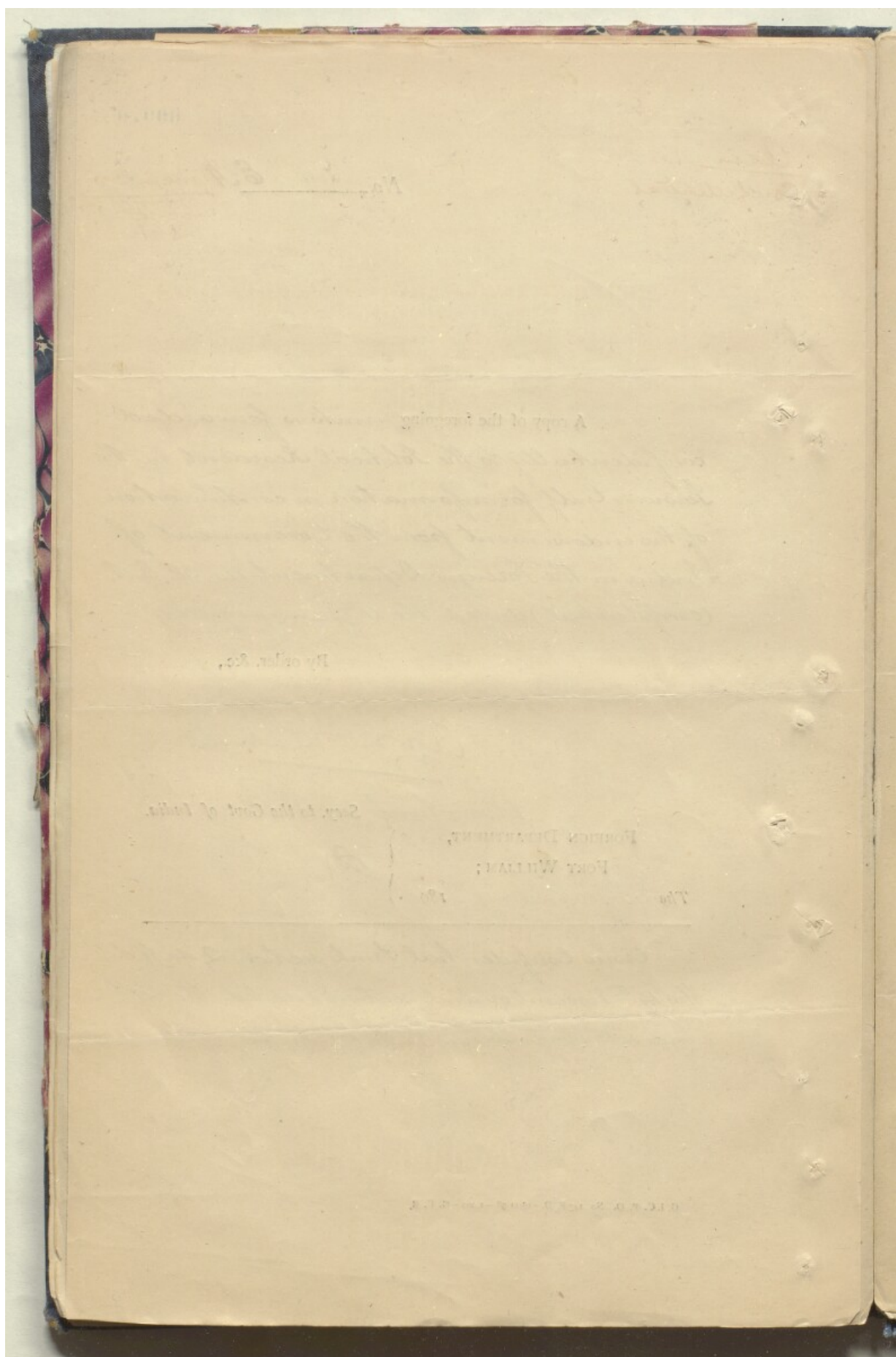
I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

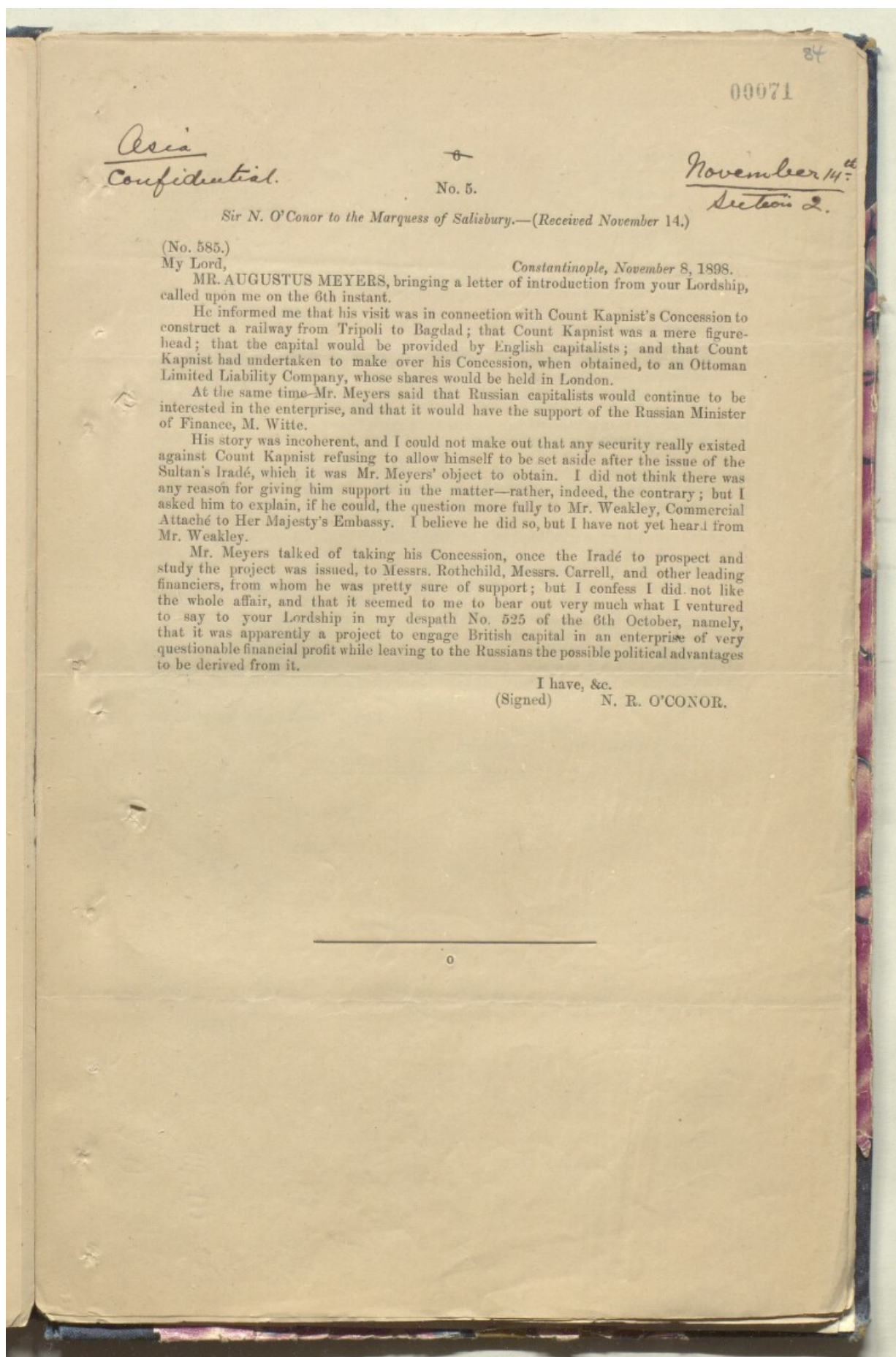
* Mr. de Buasen, No. 426, August 1; Sir N. O'Connor, No. 525, October 6; ditto, No. 538, October 1898.

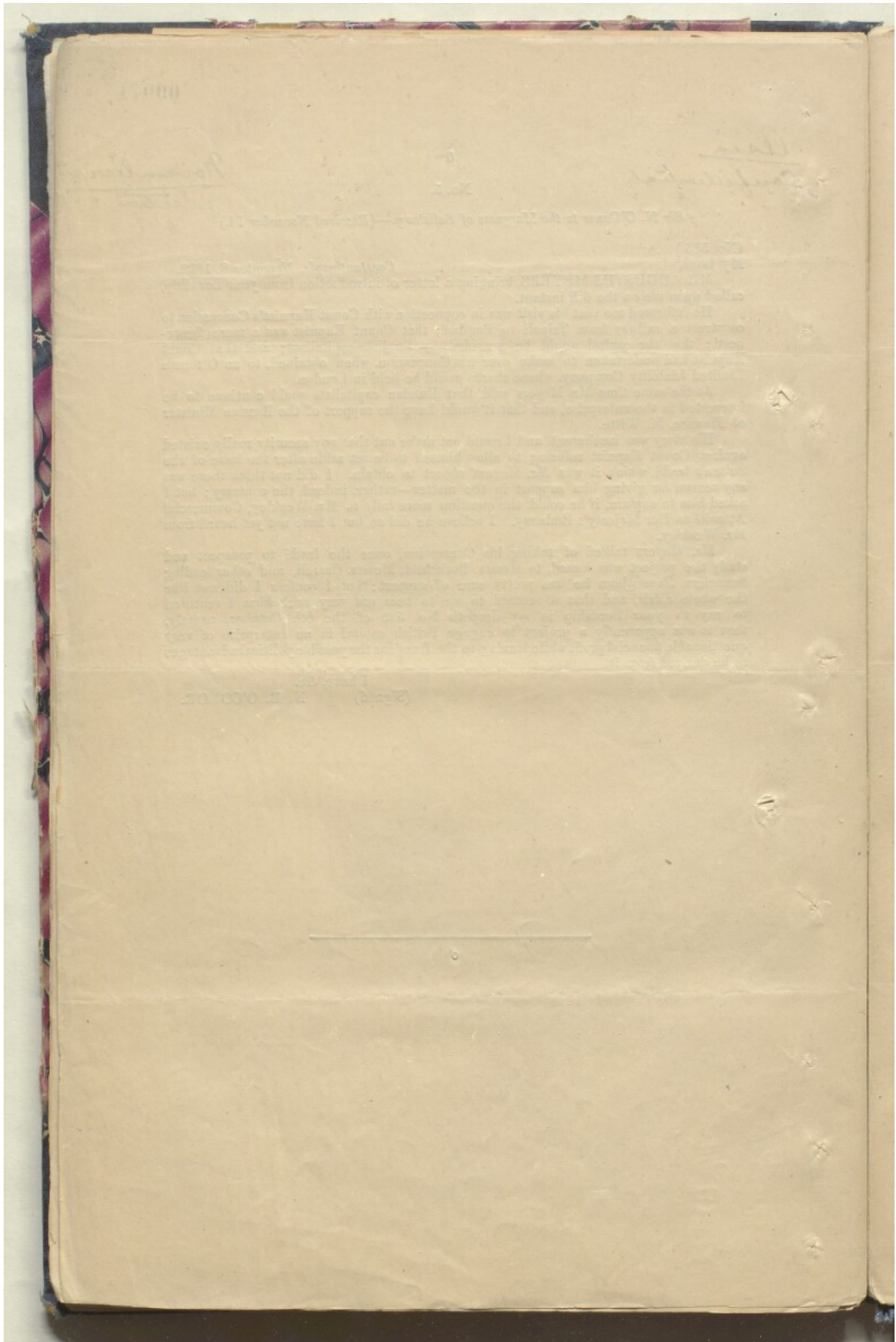
† Messrs. Williams, Meyer, and Co., October 25, 1898.
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ASIA.

[November 21.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 372. Confidential.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, November 17, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 227, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, inclosing copies of a correspondence respecting an application which has been made by Count Kapnist for the concession of a railway from Tripoli in Syria to the Persian Gulf, which is to be supported by the British firm of stockbrokers, Messrs. Williams, Meyer, and Co.

In compliance with your Lordship's desire to be furnished with any remarks that I may have to offer on these papers, I would observe that it is difficult for me to pass any opinion on the advantage of this scheme.

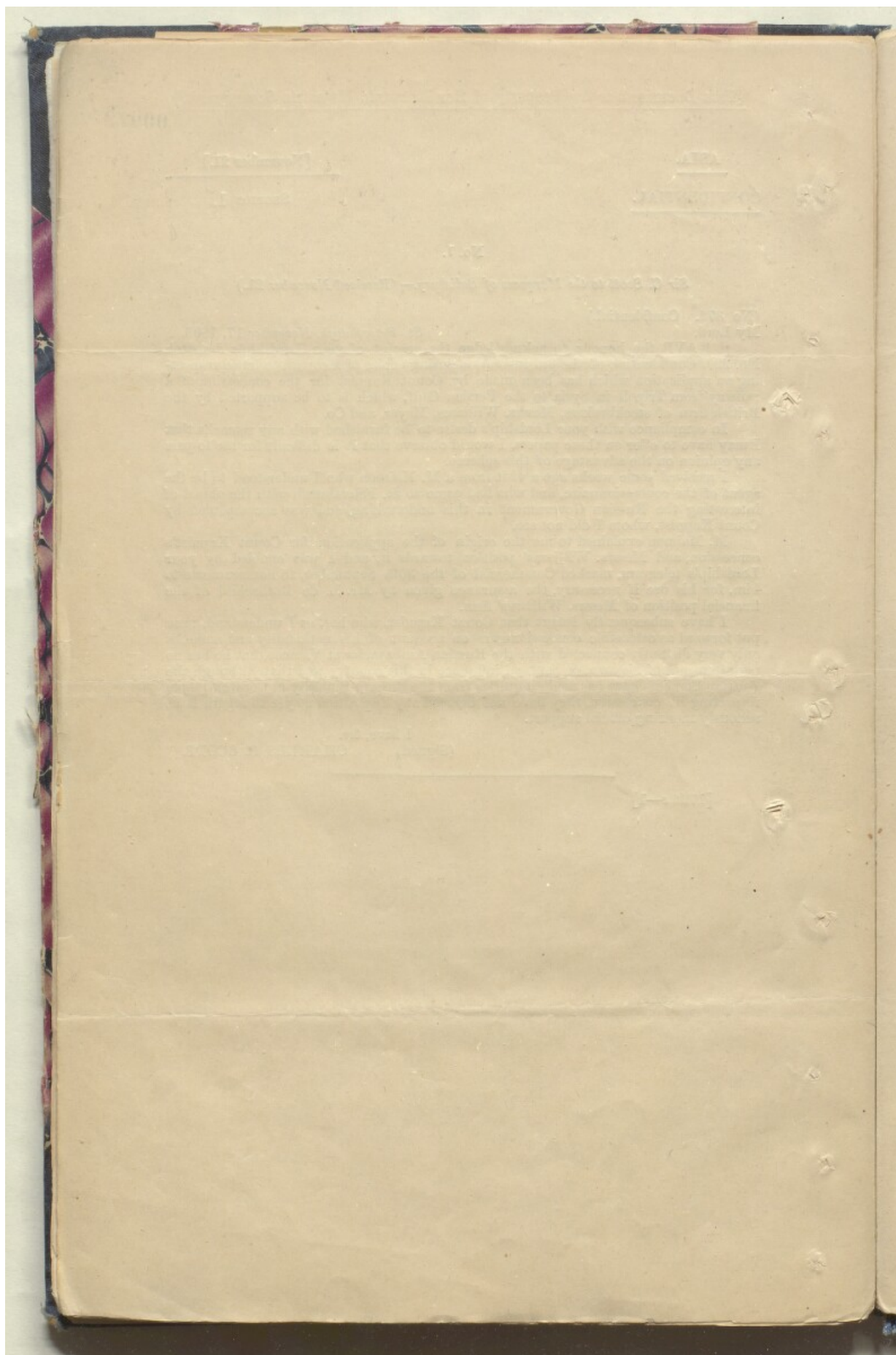
I received some weeks ago a visit from a M. Maimon who I understood to be the agent of the concessionnaire, and who had come to St. Petersburg with the object of interesting the Russian Government in this undertaking, and was accompanied by Count Kapnist, whom I did not see.

M. Maimon explained to me the origin of the application for Count Kapnist's concession, and Messrs. Williams' position towards it, and I was enabled by your Lordship's telegram, marked Commercial of the 30th September, to communicate to him, for his use if necessary, the assurance given by Mr. L. de Rothschild of the financial position of Messrs. Williams' firm.

I have subsequently learnt that Count Kapnist, who has, as I understand, been put forward as ostensible concessionnaire on account of his nationality and name, is only very distantly connected with the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, that he has no private means of his own, or personal influence in this country, and that, although the Russian Foreign Office has made inquiries from the Russian Embassy at Constantinople respecting his concession, they have not evinced any disposition as yet to regard it as seriously meriting official support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

[1723 e—1]





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00073

ASIA.

[November 30.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir J. Ardagh to Foreign Office.—(Received November 30.)

My dear Sir Thomas, 18, Queen Anne's Gate, London, November 29, 1898.
I SEND you some observations on the Kapnist scheme inclosed in Mr. de Bunsen's No. 426 of the 1st August.
I have added thereto some speculations on our future development which may be of interest as showing my point of view.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) J. C. ARDAGH.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Extract from a Memorandum by Sir J. Ardagh on Count Kapnist's Scheme for a Railway between Mediterranean and Persian Gulf—Tripoli to Koweit.

(Secret.)

COUNT KAPNIST appears to be a promoter, who hopes, by the intermediation of certain corrupt officials at Constantinople, for whose eventual benefit a sum of money is to be lodged in trust, to obtain a Concession for the construction of railways from the Mediterranean through the Euphrates and Tigris basins to the Persian Gulf. Williams, Meyer, and Co., are stockbrokers who propose to work the Concession.

The proposals, as set forth in the Petition to the Sultan, are extremely vague, and it may be inferred that neither party knows, or wants to know, anything about the details of the project. They are only concerned in making a profit by floating a Company or Syndicate.

Assuming the main line to pass from Tripoli by Homs, Miaden, Baghdad, Nasrieh, Basra to Koweit, its length would be about 1,100 miles. The branches mentioned would add about 1,400 miles; making a total of 2,500 miles, or 4,000 kilom.

The gauge of the line is stated to be "broad," i.e., presumably 4 ft. 8½ in. or 5 feet; and it is to admit of a speed of 60 kilom. (37½ miles) an hour, which implies heavy rails, easy gradients, and careful laying and maintenance, on about the scale of our Indian Railways.

The average capital outlay per mile open of the 12,000 miles of 5 ft. 6 in. standard guage lines in India is 158,000 rupees. Converting this at the rate of 1l. = 12 rupees (a great deal of the capital having been raised when rupees were worth 2s. or more) the capital outlay per mile comes to about 13,000l.

Lines recently constructed have cost much less—the 860 miles of the Bengal-Nagpur; the 680 miles of Indian midland; and the 830 miles of Oudh-Rohilkhand, cost about 10,000l. per mile; and the 160 miles Delhi-Umbali-Khalka, about 8,000l. When it is considered that the Sultan, the Porte, the intermediaries, the concessionnaire, the brokers, and the Syndicate, all expect commensurate profit, before the constructing Company enters the field, it may be anticipated that the line now in question will not be made for less than 15,000l. per mile. The main line alone, of 1,100 miles, would at this rate require a capital of 16,500,000l. The supplementary branches mentioned in the Concession, would only have the parent Company between them and the subscribing capitalists, and might perhaps be made for 8,000l. per mile. At this rate the 1,400 miles of branches might be constructed for 11,200,000l., making a total of 27,700,000l. of capital for railways alone.

To this must be added the cost of the two ports at Tripoli and Koweit, and presumably another at Alexandretta; the reclamation, drainage, and irrigation of the lands in the basins of the Euphrates and Tigris; the works needed for the regularization and navigation of these rivers; the exploitation of the mines and petroleum deposits in a belt 100 kilom. (62½ miles) in width along the railway, which, collectively, would amount to a further sum of at least 3,000,000l., making a grand total of at least 30,000,000l., over which the parent Company would have control. This is the amount of the outstanding portion of the war indemnity due by Turkey to Russia; and

[1726 d-1]



between one-half and one-fifth of the new capital annually created in the world, the enterprise may, therefore, be fairly described by Count Kapnist as "l'œuvre la plus grandiose de ce siècle."

The project of the Petition addressed to the Sultan virtually comprises the exclusive right of exploitation of the basins of the Euphrates and Tigris, ports, railways, river navigation, mines, and all land capable of being reclaimed, the holders of such a Concession would undoubtedly have a predominant influence in the country.

As half the capital is to be issued in Russia, and half the Directors are to be persons of Russian nationality, the other halves being distributed over the rest of the world, it is obvious that if such terms are accepted, the preponderance of the uniform moiety of capital and direction over the distributed moiety, is amply provided for, and that the undertaking would be essentially a Russian monopoly. The scheme in this form, appears, therefore, to be one which cannot be commended as a patriotic investment for British capital, or as one which would be consonant with the general interests of this country.

Nor is the basis upon which Messrs. Williams, Meyer, and Co. propose to negotiate, viz., that Russian representation should be proportionate to Russian capital without in any case exceeding half the whole, an adequate safeguard. Nothing short of an assured British majority on the Board of Directors should be considered sufficient to deserve the support of Her Majesty's Government.

From the analogy of other instances of a like nature, it may be inferred that Count Kapnist's reservation was not intended to furnish a field of investment for the surplus capital of private persons in Russia; but rather to create an opportunity for the State financiers of that country to acquire predominant influence in the basins of the Euphrates and Tigris, with a view to their eventual inheritance. There is little surplus capital in Russia, and the ordinary Russian manifests no disposition to invest in "wild-cat" schemes abroad, even when they conduce to the aggrandisement of his country.

The Trans-Caspian, Siberian, and Manchurian Railways; the Russo-Chinese Bank; and the Tehran-Resht road, are all State concerns, and so would be the Mesopotamian undertaking, if worked on Count Kapnist's lines, which appear to be favoured by the Russian Embassy at Constantinople. There is a certain grim humour in the conception of acquiring the reversion of the Euphrates and Tigris basins by means of a so-called International Joint-Stock Company largely supported by British capital, but directed by Russia; and from that point of view 30,000,000*l.* does not appear to be an inordinately great eventual liability; for the expenditure of the sum would in any case be spread over a great many years, and the amount to be raised annually need not exceed 3,000,000*l.*

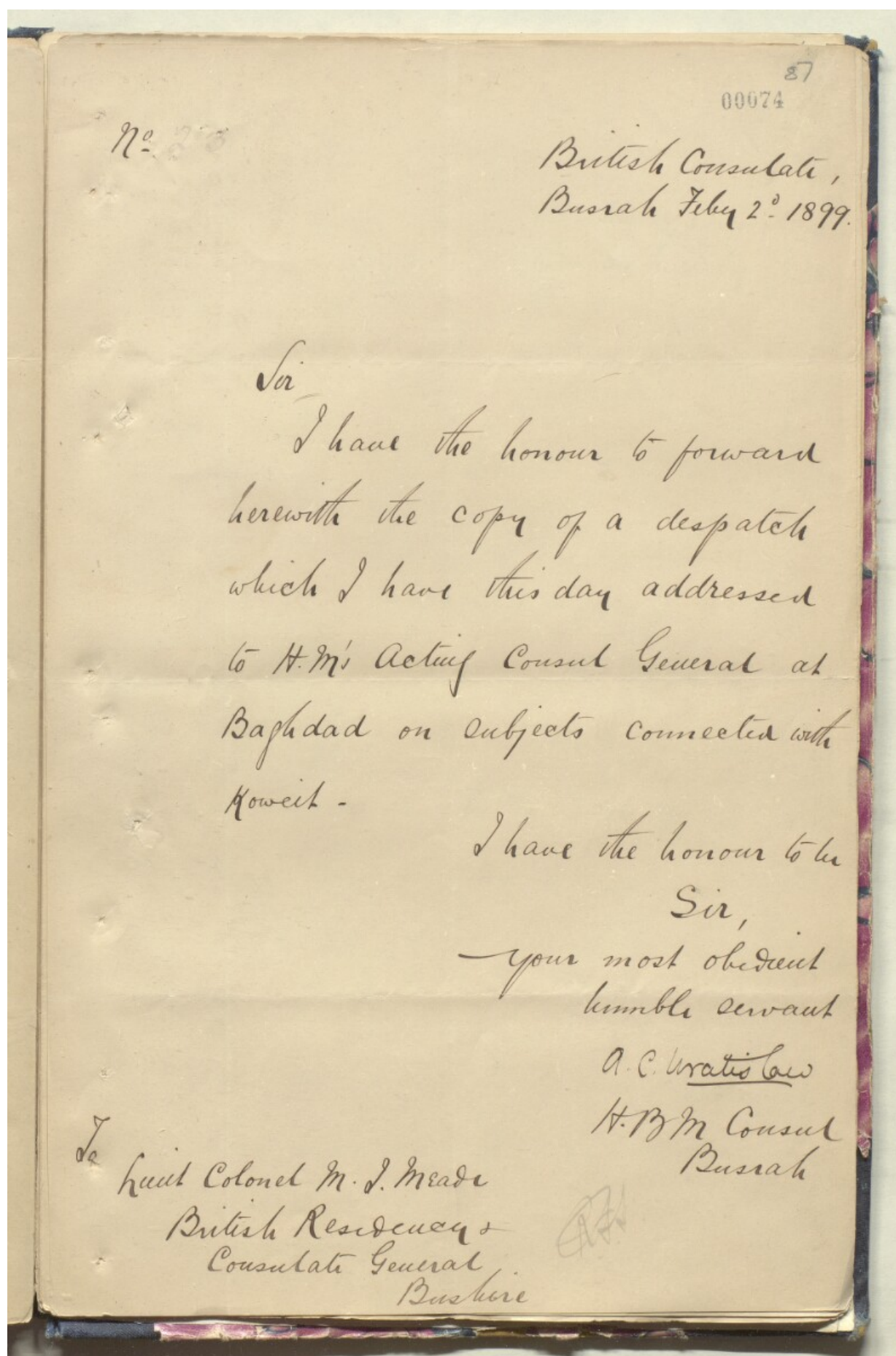
In connection with the Kapnist project, it may be well to call attention to other schemes which Russia is believed to have in contemplation, and to those of other projectors. Persia is now in a condition of unrest which occasions grave anxiety as to its future, and may precipitate a disruption for which even Russia is hardly prepared. Events may force her hand, and compel her to garner the fruit before it becomes altogether ripe. In this event, she will presumably take possession or assume a protectorate over Azerbaijan on the west, and a portion of Khorassan on the east. A railway through the former would connect with the Kapnist scheme at Khanikin; and that through the latter would lead from Ashkabad to Meshed, Birjand, and Seistan; from whence there would be an easy route along the Helmand to Kandahar.

The line from Merv in the direction of Herat is already commenced. Its progress beyond the Afghan frontier must await future events, but already suggestions have been thrown out as to the prospect of connecting with Kandahar and Quetta.

These vast conceptions are at present mere castles in the air devised by the military adventurers who play such important parts in the development of Russian frontier policy.

Underlying them are the aspirations for extending Russian power over Turkey, Persia, and Afghanistan, for ports on the Persian Gulf, and, for the invasion of India; to none of which we can afford to be indifferent, although they have not yet become burning questions.

November 28, 1898.



No. 253

87
00074

British Consulate,
Basrah Feb 2^d 1899.

Sir

I have the honour to forward
herewith the copy of a despatch
which I have this day addressed
to H.M.'s Acting Consul General at
Baghdad on subjects connected with
Koweit -

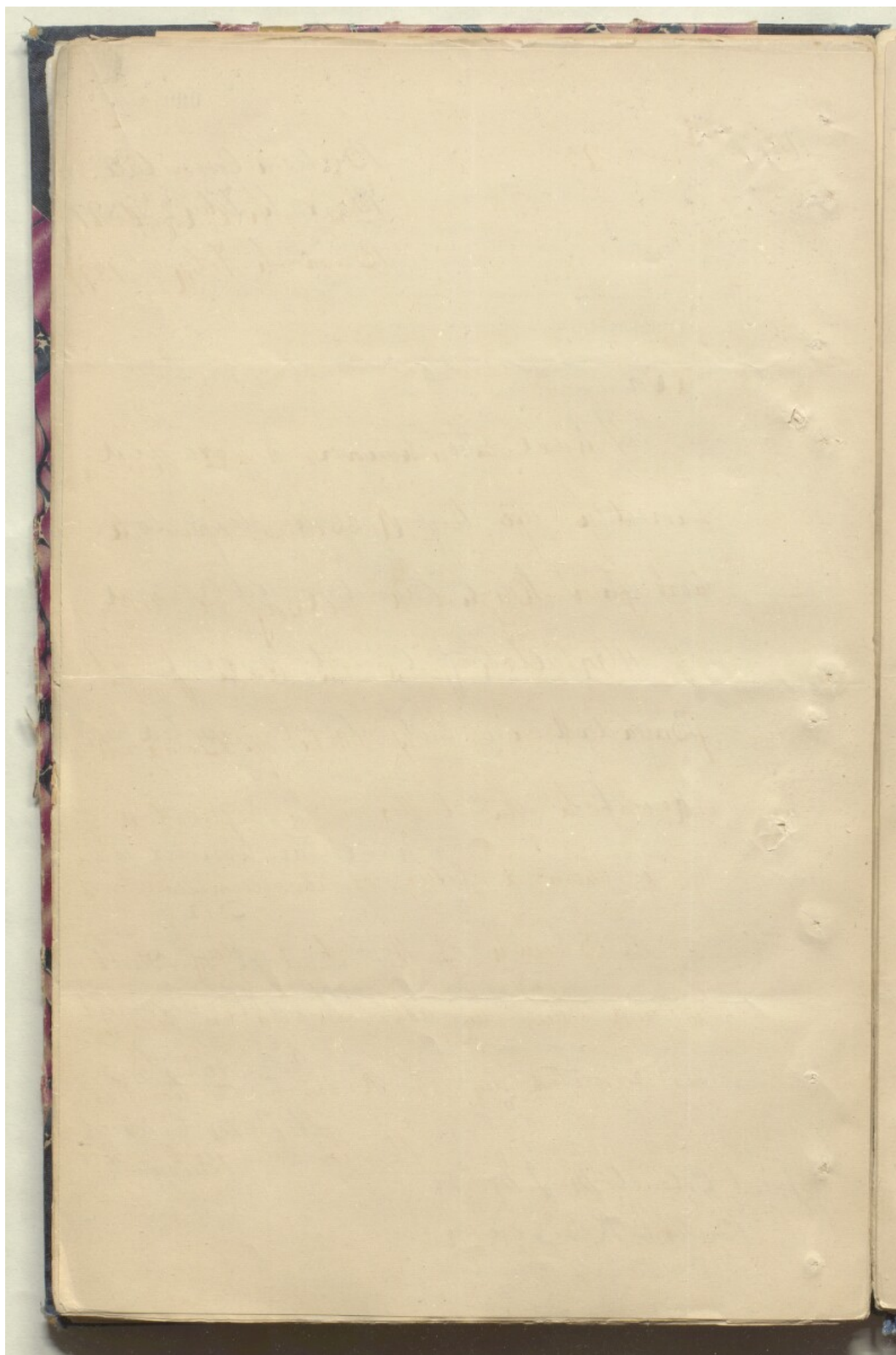
I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant

A. C. Watkinson

H.B.M. Consul
Basrah

To
Lieut Colonel M. J. Meade
British Residency &
Consulate General
Basrah





28

00075

~~Copy~~

No. 8

British Consulate,
Busrah Feb'y 2^d 1899.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that a few days ago two Russians arrived here from Baghdad bearing a letter of introduction from the Wali of the former place to the Wali of Busrah, in which the latter was requested to give them a letter of recommendation to the Sheikh of Koweit calling on him to aid them by all means in his power as requested by the Russian Authorities. They have now left this district, and

Major P. J. Melvill
Acting Consul General
s-ca s-ca Baghdad



are, I believe at Koweit, their ostensible object being trade. One of them was, I hear, at Koweit last year, dealing in lamb's skins -

In this connection I may state that the recent visit of H. M.'s Resident & Consul General ^{at Bushire} to the mouth of the river has caused considerable perturbation in Turkish official circles here -

The arrival of the "Lawrence" at Bas was immediately telegraphed to Basrah by the Mudir of the place, who reported that Colonel Meade was accompanied by a numerous staff and was on business connected with Koweit -

The Captain of the Turkish gunboat "Ishak", on patrol duty in those parts,



89

00076

also telegraphed that Colonel Meade
had landed at Koweit and had had
an interview with Sheikh Mubarek.

In the course of conversation
yesterday the Wati remarked to me
on the visit of the "Lawrence", and
I endeavoured to tranquillise His
Excellency by assuring him that Colonel
Meade had simply come to the Shakhawat
on a shooting excursion, in which I
had myself been invited to take part.
But my statement did not appear
to impress His Excellency to any
remarkable extent.

I have &c
Sd/- A. C. Wratislaw
H.B.M. Consul



Telegram

To Foreign

Reliable report has reached me
that 2 Russians have gone to
Koweit via Busrah with an
order from Turkish Govt. to
Sheikh to give them every
assistance. It is rumoured
that Turks know of my visit
& are suspicious. No news of
any special military
preparations at Busrah

(sd) Meade

11/2/99.



Confidential

90
00077

27th Feb. 99.

My dear Pridaux,

Bulkeley at Fao has just returned from Koweit & gives me this information for Resident through Mr Johnson, clerk-in-charge at Fao. Bulkeley says "On my arrival met Sheikh & brothers most affable to me & inclined towards us. Said that regards Ibn Rashid, there was much news that he intended attacking Koweit in a few days; he was three days' journey from Koweit, when I left. Ibn Rashid had on way been looting Bedouins & had put several tribes to flight. I met a Russian who had just arrived & I was told he had come buy Astrakan skins but got information that he had no intention doing so;



intended leaving Koweit
after three days or so for
interior going Busrah
Bagdad. Therefore you
will see that his short stay
could not have been with
object buying skins. The
Sheikh told me he had,
the day that I left, heard
Turks intend erecting a
line from Busrah to Koweit.
I mean a telegraph line
but that Mobarak said he
should object to their doing
so. Said he would let me
know definitely about this
later on. I will write Col:
myself, giving him full
particulars later on. What
I have given you is just pith
of the news."

Here I said "Right! will
tell F. A. this. Res^{nt} is not
expected in Busrah for
few days. Would it be any
use the "Pigeon" going
Koweit?"

Pulkeley said "I don't



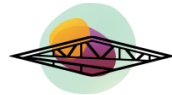
91

00078

think so. It would only
excite Turks but I will
let you know. At present
there is nothing of importance
from Koweit. I mean that
we should show ourselves
there, as it is over Lawrence
going there it has excited
deal anxiety amongst Turks.
I will write in full this mail.
You will see the inadvisability
of "Pigeon" or any other boat
going there, because, as
soon as Turks here heard
I had gone Koweit, they
wired to Busrah, so I hear.
It's best keep mum & quiet -
for few days, so as to let
them cool down."

I said I would send
this on to you.

Bulkeley said "Right!"
but impress on him that,
in my opinion, it is not
advisable at least not just
now send any boat there,



because they cannot
interfere in quarrel or fight
that might take place
between Ibn Rashid &
Inobarak.

Mr Johnson at Fao tells
me that the Turks are
making a deal of fuss over
Bulkeley's trip to Koweit &
wanted to put the whole
station in quarantine
saying Bulkeley had gone
over to the Persian side.

The boatmen & Bulkeley's
guide, a man named Khazal,
have all run away to the
Persian side of river.

Bulkeley is in great state
of mind about this!

(Ed) G. Mungrin.


Resident.

Since receipt of this,
we have had no news from
Koweit. I dare say you
have rec^d. Bulkeley's letter
before now

5/3/99. J^d 7. B. P.



92
00079

 Fas
1st March '99

Dear Colonel Meade.

On my return from Koweit last Sunday I gave Mr. Johnson a brief summary of news picked up at Koweit, to which place I had been on a few days leave. This information he wired to you through Mr. Munger as requested.

Sheikh 'Ibarak and all his brothers were very kind, and seemed well disposed towards British. Gabur the youngest was most anxious for information on various subjects such as: "What would happen were 'Ibarak to claim British protection. "Would the Turks allow this without interference?" "Would 'Ibarak be helped by us in the event of trouble between him and the Turks?" etc. etc.



him myself though I saw him
often, and he only spoke Russian
& Turkish, so I heard. He interviewed
'Hubarak several times, who after-
wards informed me that he (the
Russian) on one occasion wanted to
to know why he ('Hubarak) did
not make friends with Russia.
'Hubarak told him that Russia
was too far away, and that the
British were and had always been
his firm friends etc.
There seemed to be a general
impression, that there was a
likelihood of a Russian consulate
being established at Koweit.
'Hubarak made no mention of
this to me.
The night I left 'Hubarak called me
into his private room and told
me that he had heard that the



1009093
Inbaran seemed to me to be a
bit uneasy about something, and
told me that the Captain of the
Turkish corvette which was at
Koweit at the time the Lawrence
went there, had threatened to
report him to the Wali for having
after- (the allowed a party from the Lawrence
anted to land, with other threats.
id I saw a Russian who was supposed
to have come to Koweit, for the
purpose of buying astrakhan skins,
but I think this improbable, as
the his stay was so short (four days),
been moreover the Shikhs ex mune
el informed me confidentially that
a he had come for the purpose of
ate gathering information and prying
it into Koweit affairs etc.
of During his stay he was put up by
a Turcoman a resident of Koweit
ed me and was constantly in his company
ed I had no opportunity of speaking to
the



Turks intended erecting a telegraph line from Zoolbair, near Busrah, to Koweit, but to this he appeared much averse. He begged me to tell you the Turks had been and were still his enemies and he had grave fears of being sieged one of these days by them. He said that he expected an attack by Ibn Rashid of Nejd who was then four days march from Koweit, and had been hating the Bedonins throughout the interior. This attack, no doubt he said, was due to his quarrel with Yusuf bin Ibrahim and had been encouraged by Turkish intrigue. He said he intended fighting and was fully prepared. I hear today that he has given orders that no one was to be allowed out after 8 o'clock in the evening or else they would be shot as being Ibn Rashid's men. He has promised to supply me with any Koweit news by ^{special} private messenger as he seemed averse to writing letters for fear they should miscarry.



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94



Mbarak wished me to give you
his compliments, and trusted you
were well, with other kind speeches.
On my return to Bas I found the
Turks had been much excited
for some days, as they said I had
gone to Indian on the Persian
side and wanted to put me into
quarantine, but they relinquished
this idea on my supplying them with
a written statement that I had
been to Koweit. Their true motive
now appeared, which was, to seize
and extort money from the nakoda
of the boat for having taken me
to Koweit, and to imprison my man
Khalil, whom I engaged to assist
me while there. To evade the Turks the
men have escaped to the Persian side
of the river and are afraid to return.



as my servant.
I think you will agree with me
that this is a very hard case,
as the man is perfectly innocent
of harm, with the exception of having
accompanied me to Koweit, and
being in communication with
us generally, which the Turks
have made a pretext for
molesting him.
I shall let you have what news
I get by wire through Mr. Johnson.
Trusting you and Mrs. Meade
are very well with kind regards
I remain, Yrs sincerely
W. D. Buckley



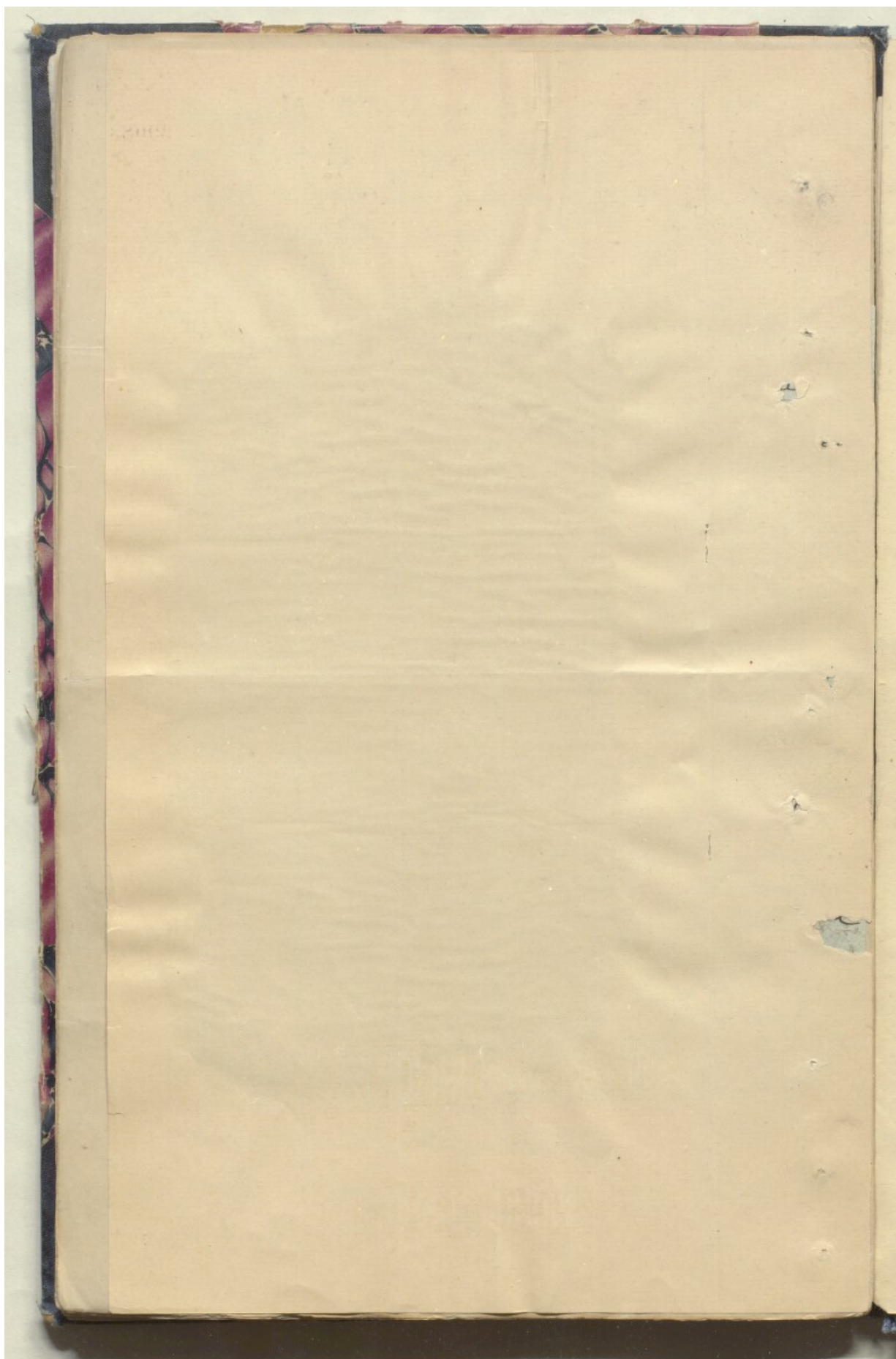
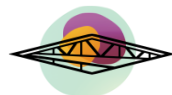
This incident will prove ^{to you} the state of affairs here with the Turks, who long since have given the Arabs, other than foot servants, to understand that they will be punished if they do any communication with the English, and you will understand how difficult it is for me to obtain information from Arabs under these circumstances.

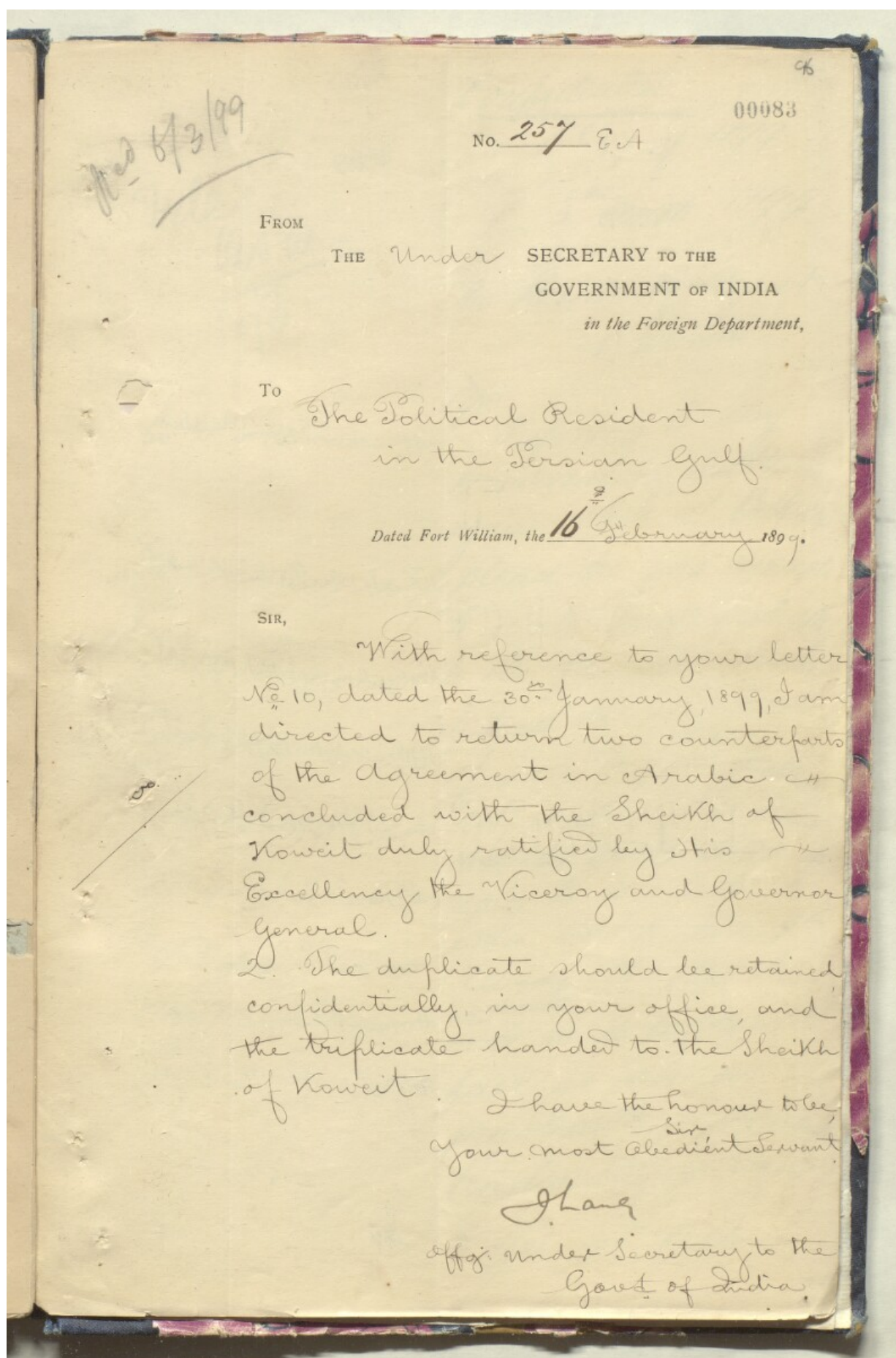
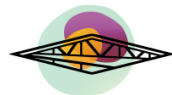
For this purpose I have always found Khazal most useful, and the Turks have been most antagonistic to him since the Lawrence's episode at Fadagiash last year, of which no doubt Captain Kendall has told you about. His (Khazal's) services are now unavailable as he is afraid to return to this side as matters now stand. Would it be possible for him to become a British subject, in which case I should willingly engage him.

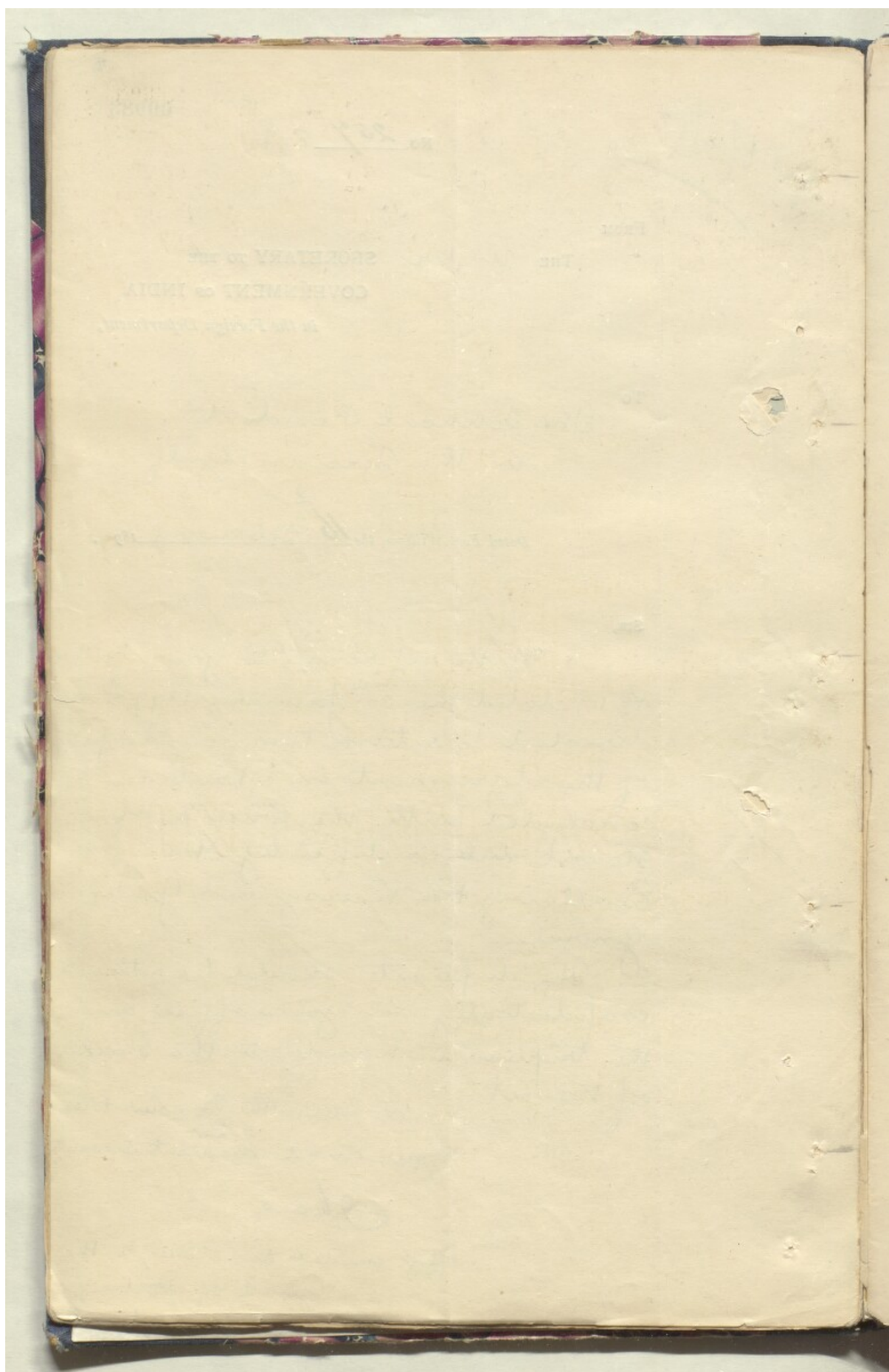
I will agree with me is a very hard case, is perfectly innocent with the exception of having aided me to Koweit, and communication with him, which the Turks take as a pretext for him.

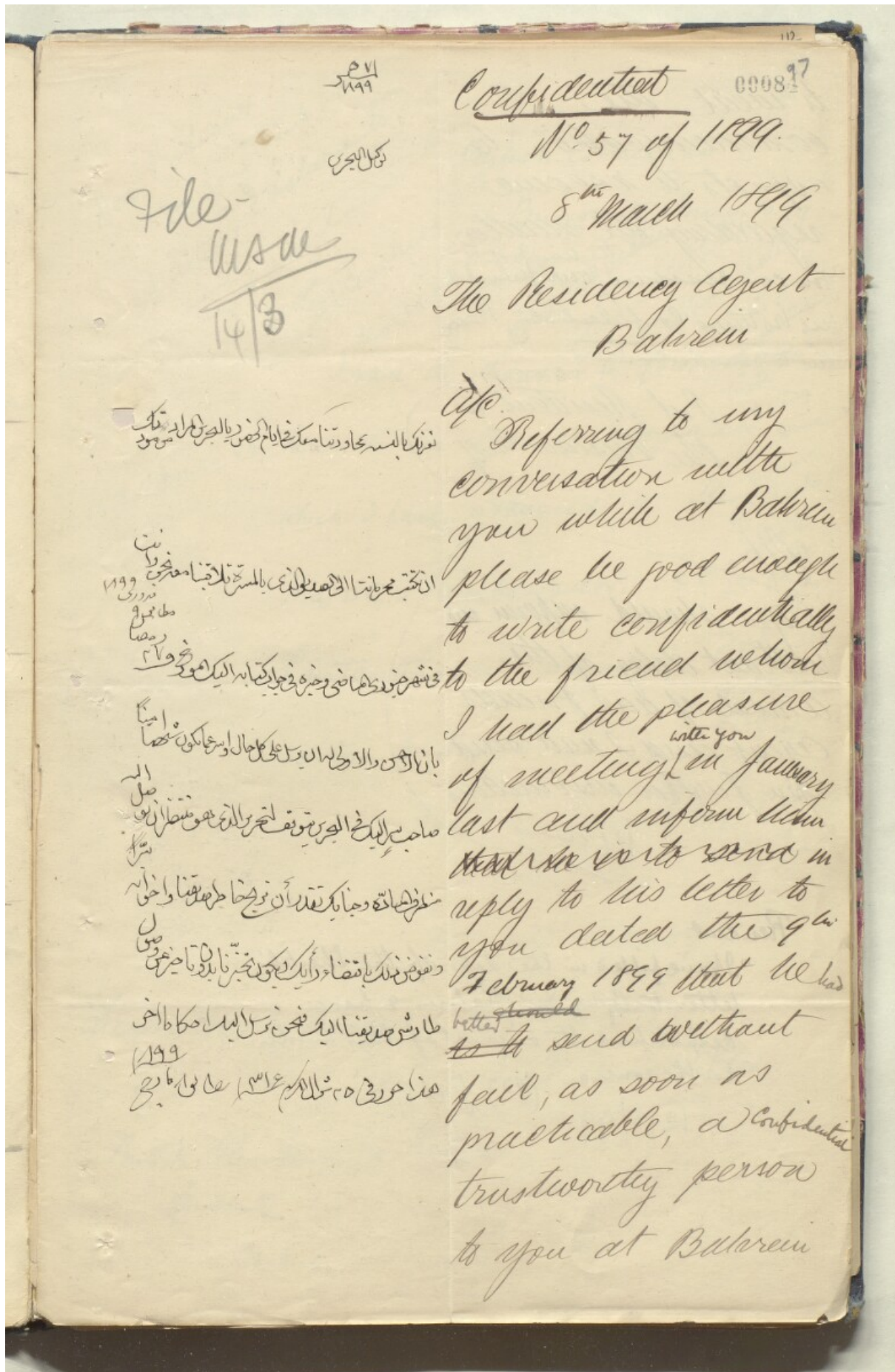
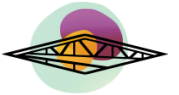
I have what news will come through Mr. Johnson. I am and Mrs. Meade all with kind regards remain, I am, Yours sincerely,

Buckley











to read the
communication he
expects to receive
regarding the matter
you can reassure ^{the mind of} our friend &
his brothers Confidentially I leave
this to your discretion.

Pal. Resident in
the Persian Gulf

JH
You should inform me
without delay of the
arrival of our friend's
agent and I will send
you further instructions
WHL

Resident.

I have filled in the date of the Sheikh's
letter to Ayha In. Rahmi & have
despatched the original of this under
double covers

12/3/99. (92) J. C. G.



00085 48

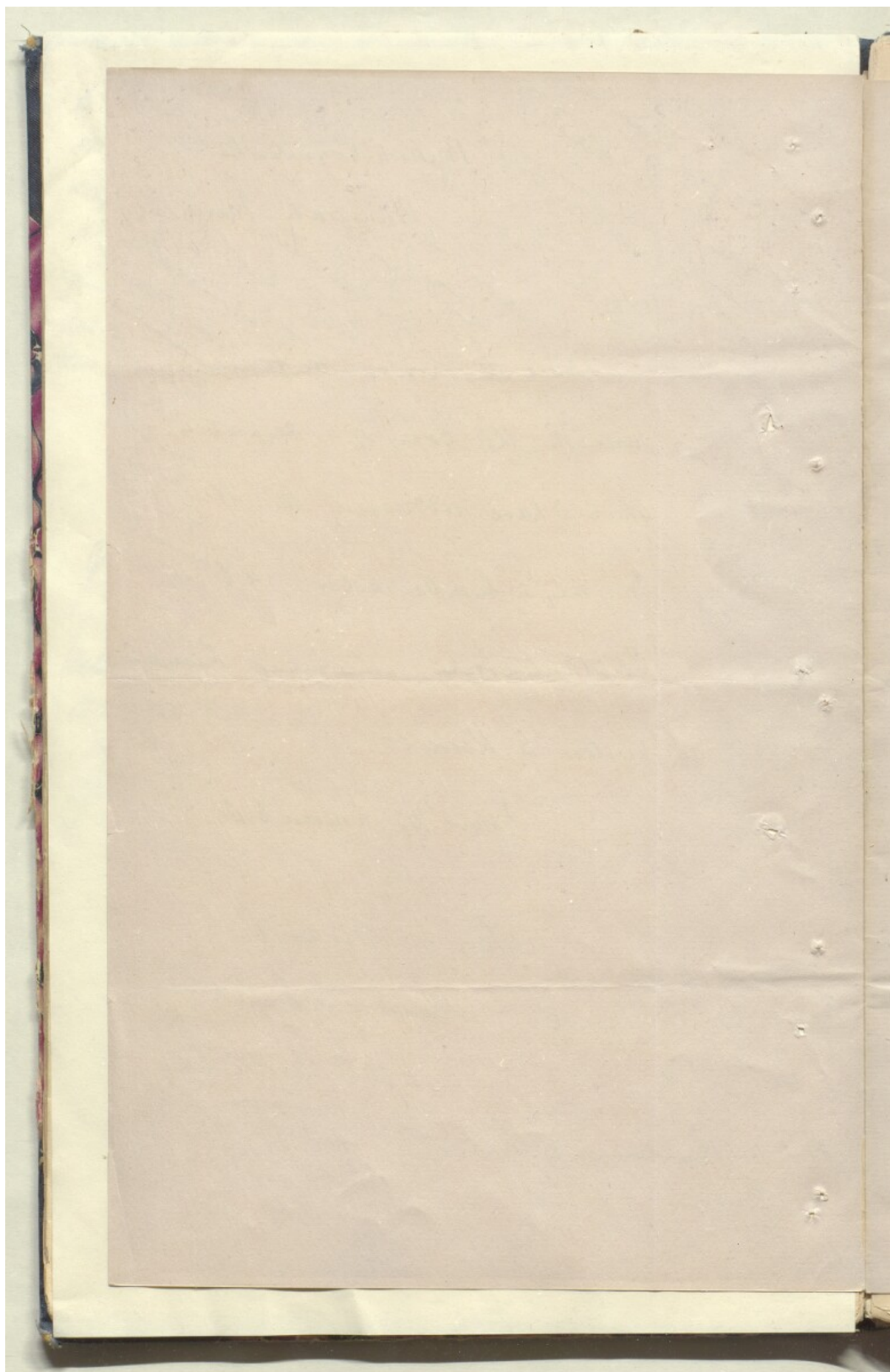
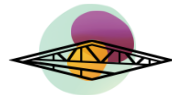
Dear Pridemont
Do you think we
shd ask Mr. Palmer to
try & ascertain what
Mr. Rindles a British Consulate
Koweit are up to? If so
you had better
send a copy to
to Goshin telling
him to forward
write to Mr
telling
him to make
enquiries.
G. C. White
himself
& say it is
by my
orders -
Russian
giving
a copy of
his letter
Wm

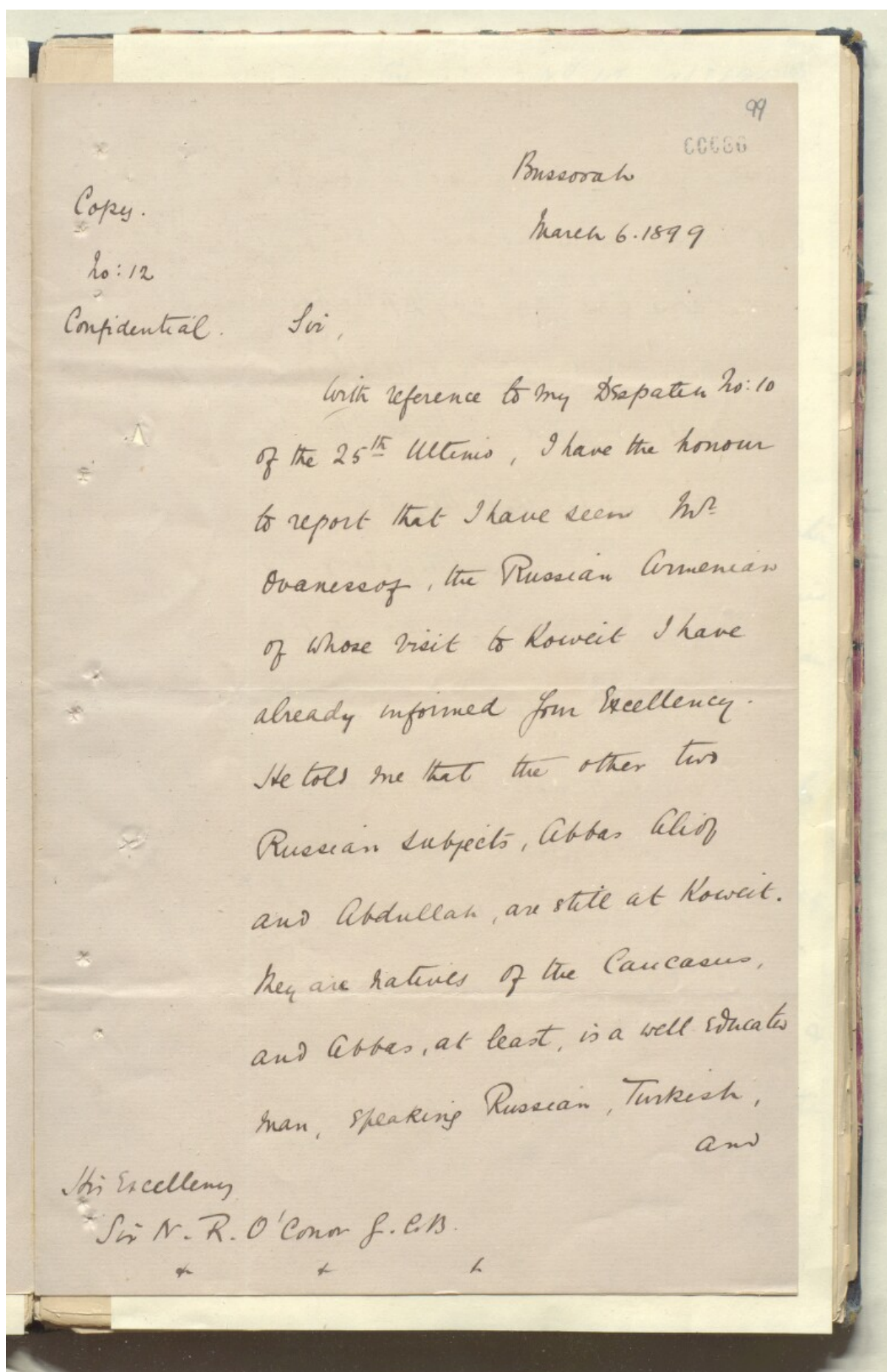
13/3.

ho: 12 7 March 6. 99 herewith the copy of a despatch
which I have addressed to Her
Majesty's Ambassador at
Constantinople concerning
visitors to Koweit.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
Stumble servant;
A. C. Uratishan

Genl. Col. H. Meade
British Residency & Consulate
General
Bashine





Copy.

No: 12

Confidential. Sir,

Bussorah

March 6. 1899

With reference to my Despatch No: 10
of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour
to report that I have seen Mr
Ivanessof, the Russian Armenian
of whose visit to Koweit I have
already informed Your Excellency.
He told me that the other two
Russian subjects, Abbas Ali,
and Abdullah, are still at Koweit.
They are natives of the Caucasus,
and Abbas, at least, is a well educated
man, speaking Russian, Turkish,
and

Yr Excellency

Sir N. R. O'Connor G.C.B.



and Arabic. He has hired a house
at Koweit, and proposes to stay
there some time and buy up lambskins.

I have no doubt that this two
are really engaged in trade, but it
is quite possible that they are at
the same time in the temporary
employ of the Russian Consulate
at Baghdad. Ovanessoff appears
to be an extremely intelligent
man. He informed my dragoman
that the Russian Consul at
Baghdad had offered him the
post of unpaid Vice Consul at
Bussorah, but that he had declined
it

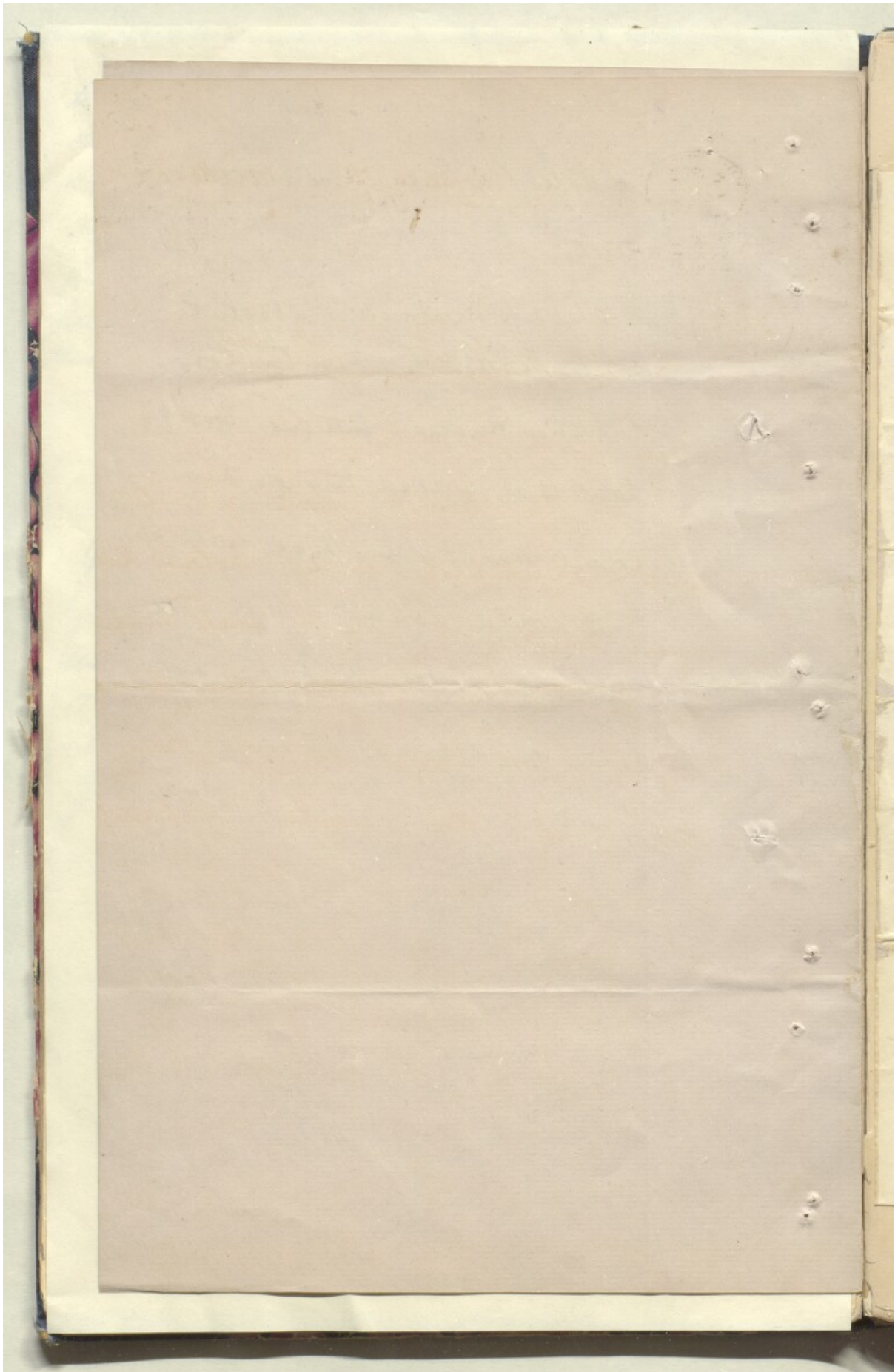


00057/100
it unless a salary were attached
thereto.

Sheikh Mubarek is absolute
master within his own territory,
and any Russian intrigues would
have to be worked through him.
Colonel Meade is in touch with him,
and would doubtless hear and
report any attempt to buy up
land or otherwise tamper with
Koweit.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. C. Walsby





Confidential



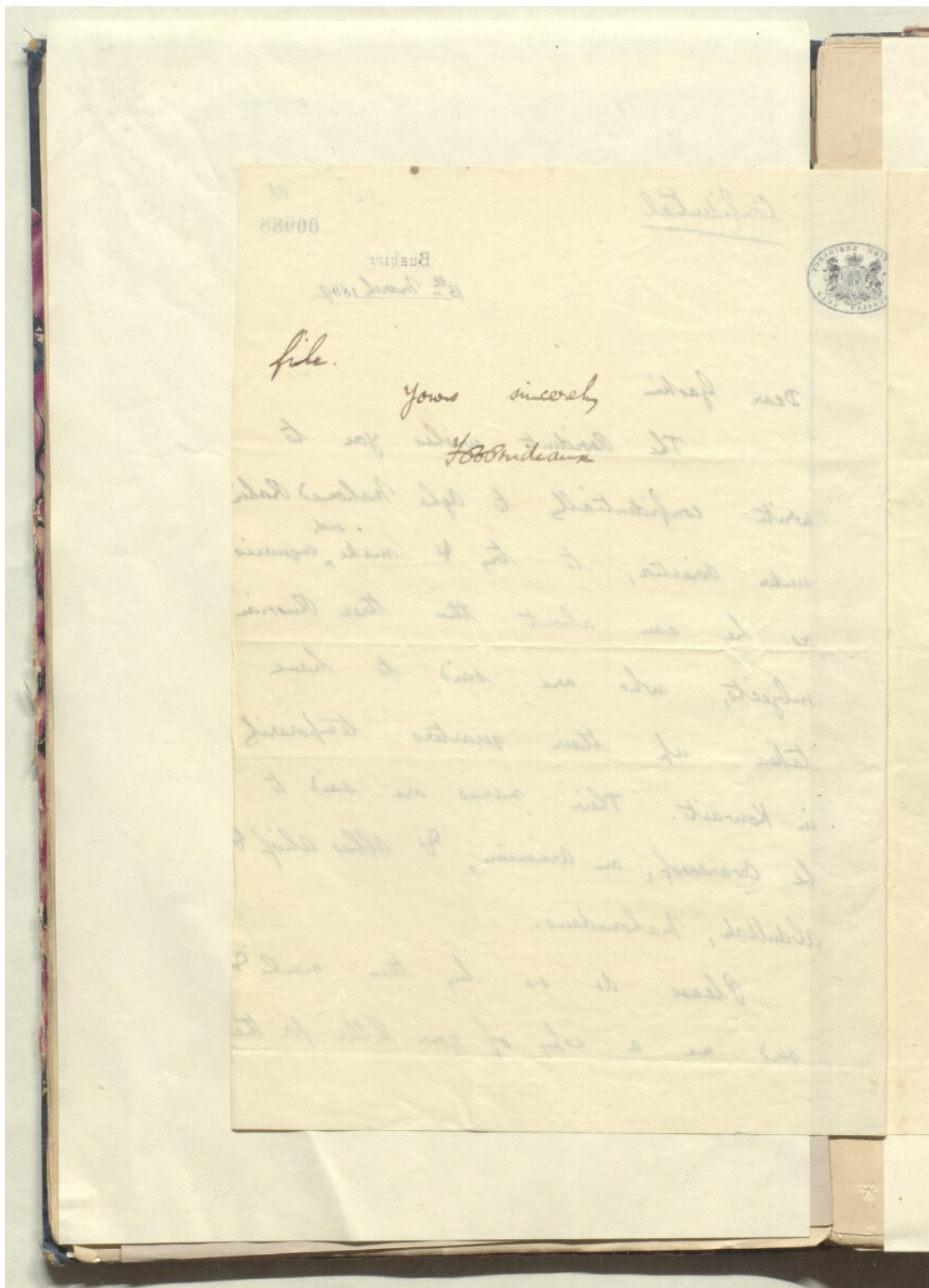
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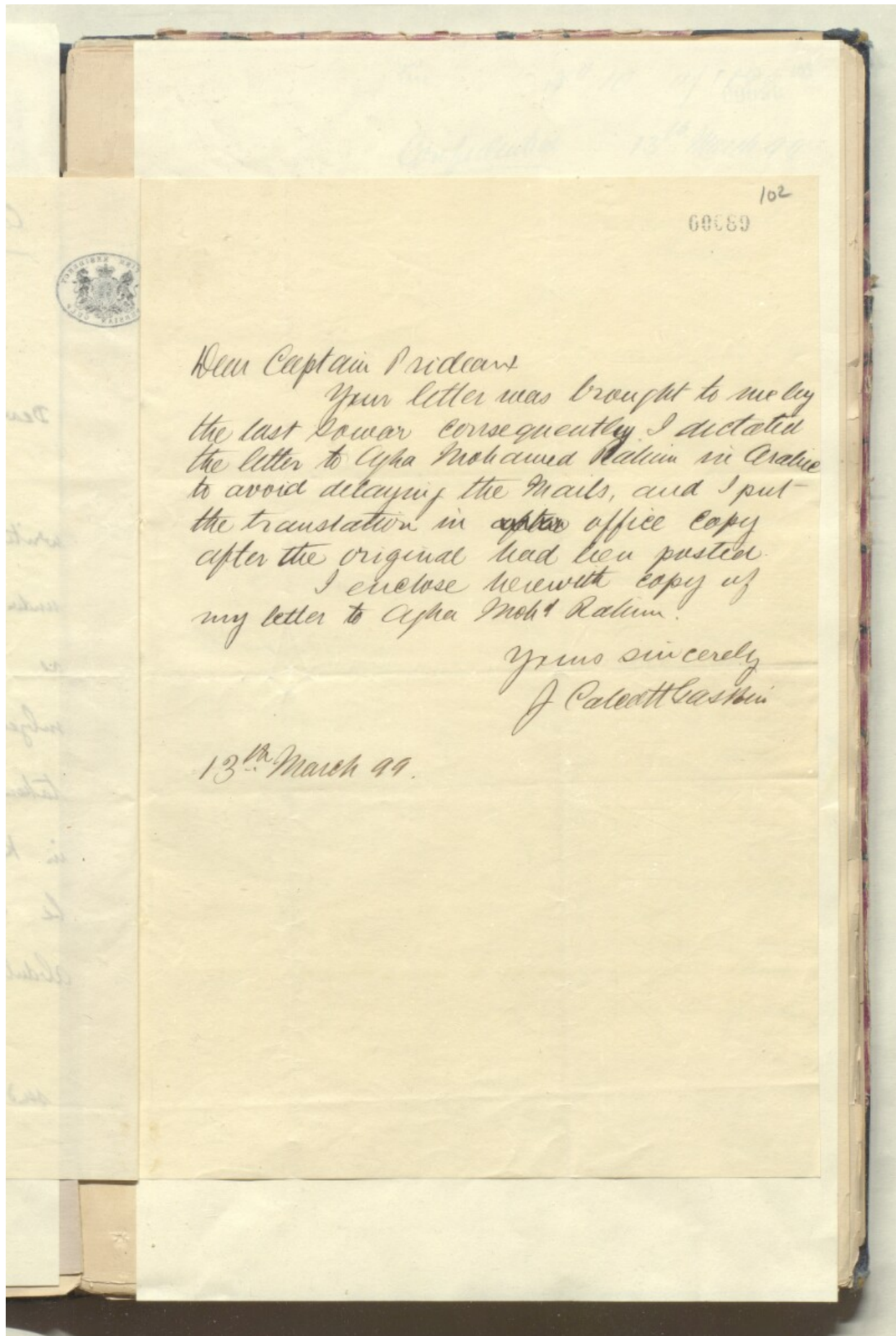
Bushire
15th March 1899

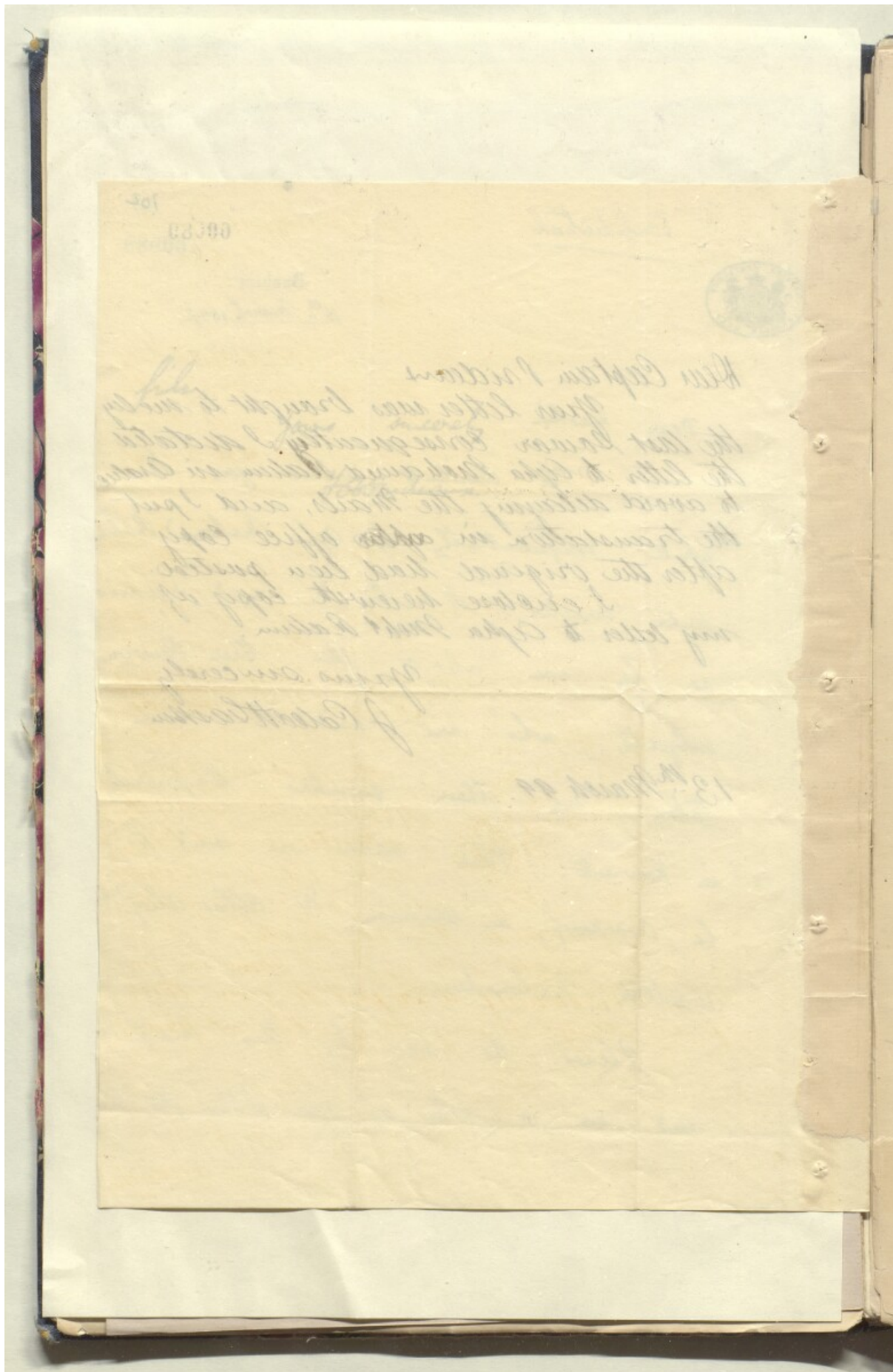
Dear Gashin

The Resident wishes you to write confidentially to Agha Mahomed Rakin under direction, to try & make ^{such} enquiries as he can about the three Russian subjects, who are said to have taken up their quarters temporarily in Koweit. Their names are said to be Ivanessof, an Armenian, & Abbas Aliof & Abdullah, Mahomedans.

Please do so by this mail & send me a copy of your letter for the







N^o 10. of 1899 ¹⁶³
00050

13th March 99.

Yd.

مستتر کما مستتر له ان محذوف

منقو

حبله خاضع للمعالي المورده في فرض جابر محمد فاسا ان بلاد انفا دمو على الدرد

مجلس ۱۲

من رفد في الكويت اقدم ادمي سمي وانسل ف و اسالهم السلام

والاخره در اين فقه كه در هر دو مورد از اين عمل در حقيقت كمال منزه الكونيت

عن الفضل عليه السلام وغير ذلك من المتخصصات المذكورة ويكون فيها ما

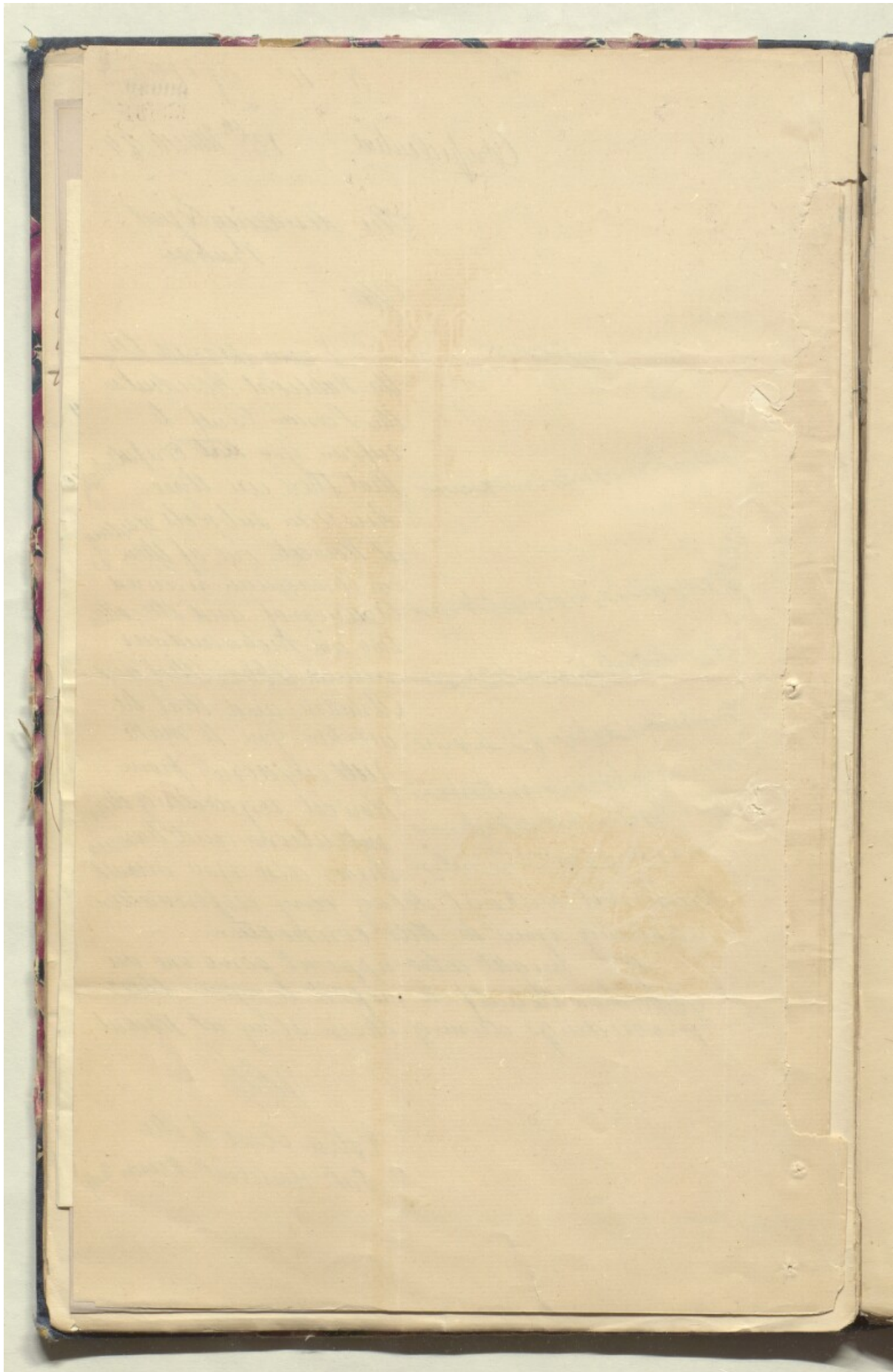
کاجه بیستم فی هذا الموضع يكون واحد انفسكم من سائر الجاهل بحركات
هذا الموضع في الكونيات ولا تنفص عنه هذا الموضع في سائر الموضع

سریکا غره دیو قندہ (غاس) سبلا موسم ۱۹۴۱

transmit without delay any information reaching you in this connection.

You might also appoint some one on
your own behalf to report to you their
proceedings during their stay at Moscow

J. C. H.
Extra Assist to the
Pres. Resident Persian Gulf





112
104
00091
Tel. f. Foreign

Please arrange with Vice
Consul at Basrah by
quickest means at your
disposal that he should
send immediate information of
any probable movements of
Turkish troops towards Koweit.
Vice Consul can perhaps send a
telegram ~~to~~ from Fao.

18/3/99

Foreign



Telegram sent to C. C. Fao through
Mr Munjavin A.S. Bushire

Please send following to Commander
of the Laurene now near
Mohammerah by special
kossid. Begins - Please
ascertain from Consul Busch
if he has any news of importance
to send me. If so, please
arrange to bring it down to
Fao & telegraph it through
C.C. ends.

Please add that
Laurene should stay off
Fao, so that Resident can
communicate with
Consul(?) if necessary. Ends.

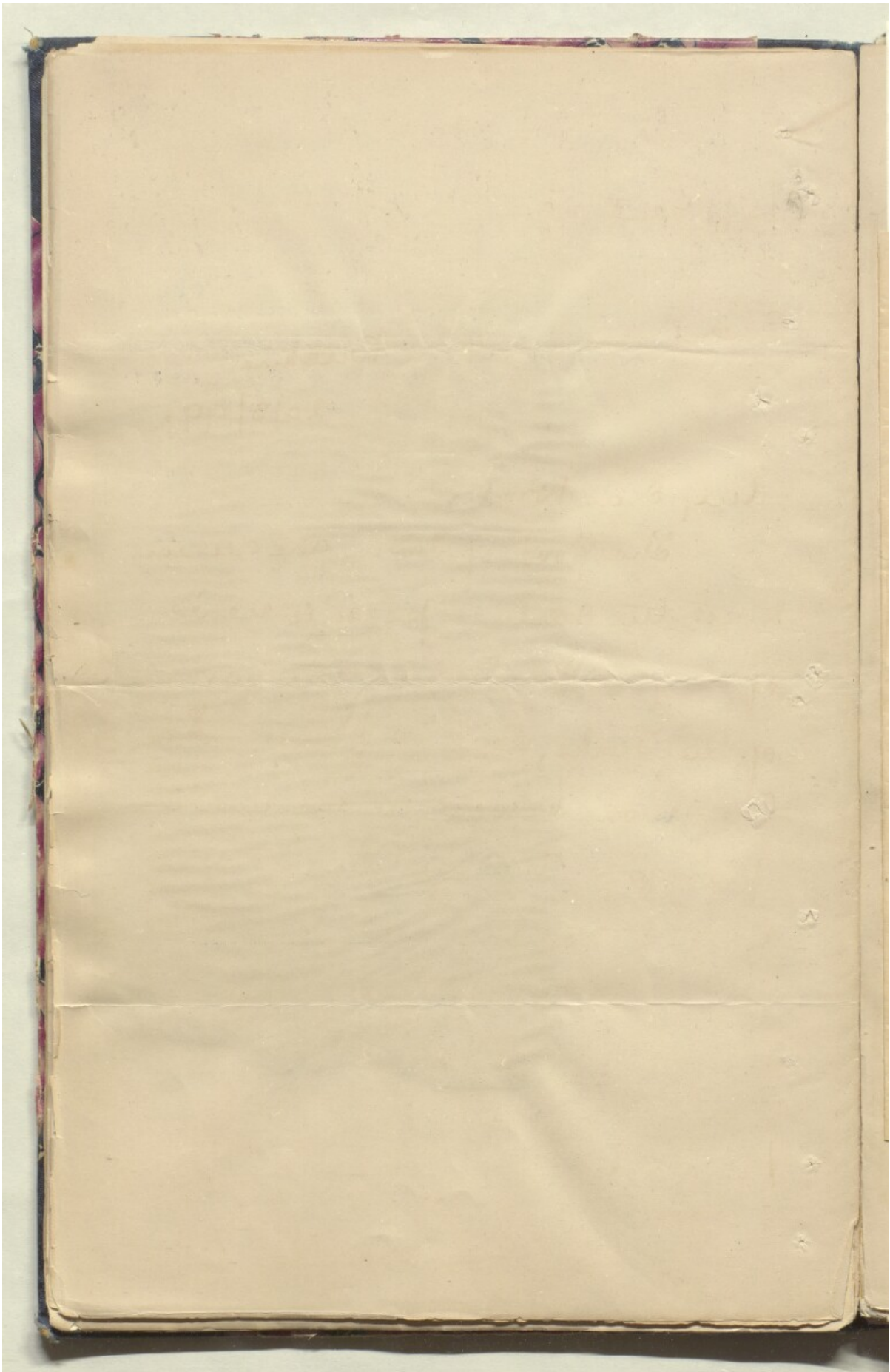
(J.) M. J. M.

17/3/-



letter f. Wroteslaw means that
there is nothing here to
tell us: but you might ~~ask~~
Hungarian to tell us that
message had not reached
Com. Lawrence on the 18th
I'd also like if possible & if
it can be done without exciting
suspicion to find out if the
mail steamer has any
news of movements of troops
at Boussale. It is most important
that we get the earliest
information, & I think I ought

Ms
Argumente
19.3.99





Secret



Bushie

20/3/99.

My dear Wratelaw -

The Govt of India are anxious to get the earliest possible news of any movements on the part of the Turks, against Koweit. The last mail brought no information from you; but the Clerk at Fao wrote to say that he hears the Turks are massing troops with a view to marching to Koweit via Jabail.



Please let me know as soon
as possible of any such intention

If you send a message by
boat to Fao with the words -

"There are few ships left"

I will understand that it
means the Turks are on the

move, or about to move by
land. if you add "On the River"

I will understand they are
going by the Shat-al-Arab



Cr

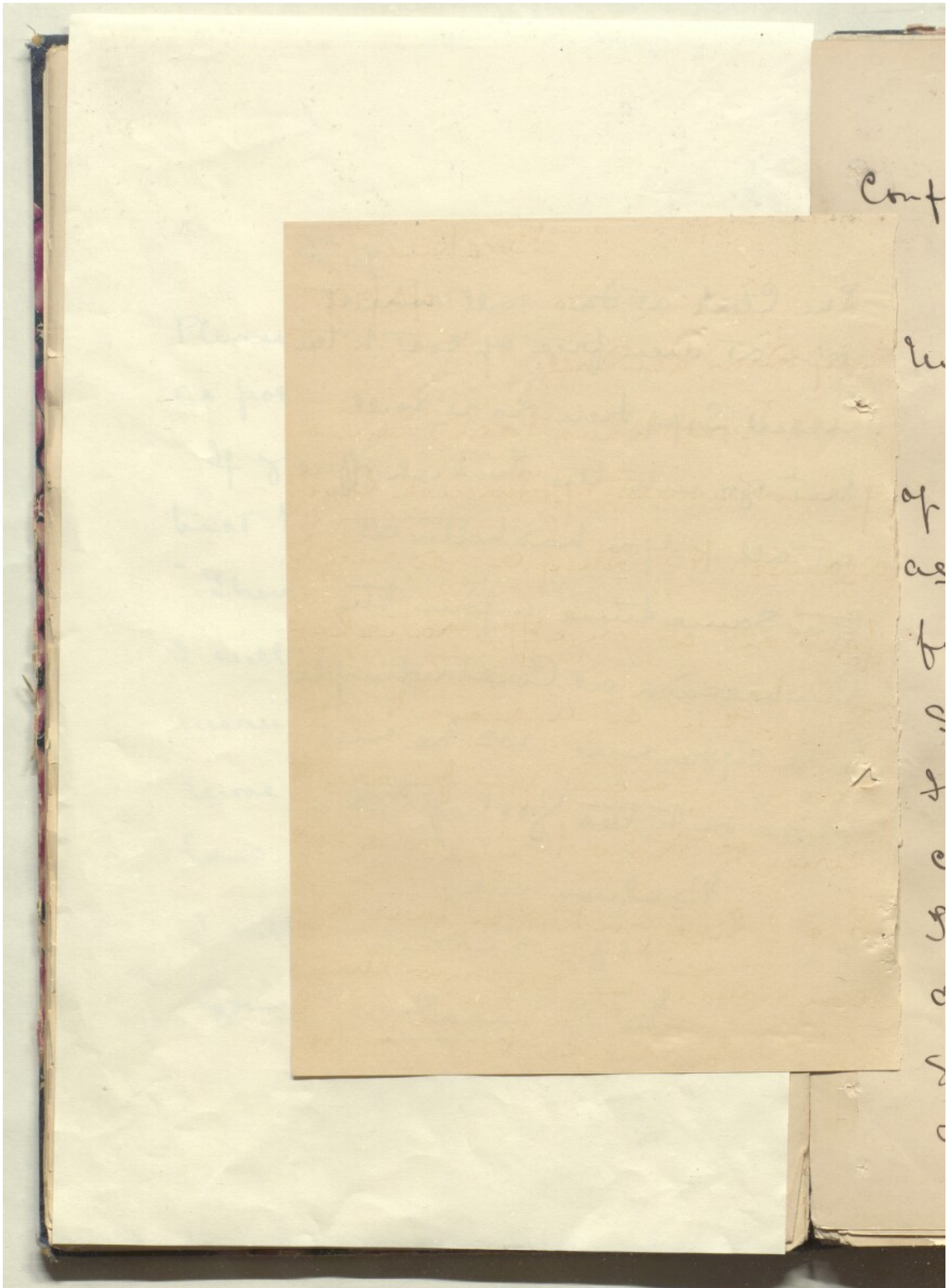
95¹⁰⁸A

The Clerk at Jao will wire it
over at once free of cost to the
Agent-Supt here - so it will
not go into the Turkish office
at all - You had better at
the same time inform the
Ambassador at Constantinople
by a cipher wire - wh^{ch} he will
pass on to the Govt of India

Believe me

Yrs sincerely

H. J. Meade





Copy ✓
Confidential

Bushire

20/3/99

My Dear Kendall

Govt have heard rumours
of movements of Turkish troops
against K. They asked me to
find out at once J. Bratie Law.

So I sent a message to you via
Sao - I want you please to
come to Sao & bring his answer
I wd like you to stay there a few
days until we see how things
go. No news here - Hope you
are all flourishing & with
our best Salams -

Yrs sincerely
M J Mead



Telegram
20th

From Bushire
To Resident

Following from Johnson Fao. Begun
"Kassid arrived afternoon 18th
& was forwarded to Busrah
same night. As soon as reply
arrives, I will proceed Fao
unless I hear from you to
Contrary. Survey not yet
finished. Kendall." Inds.

20/3/99. Mungravin

69696

1799

Translated
18/3

کتابخانه مجلس شورای اسلامی
تاسیس ۱۳۰۲

من محرمی مرابوت فک مارچی ۱۸۹۹

حضرة خاتون العالی الجاه ذوی سؤة والجلال اکرام الاحم ایضا کنول مید بایوز و قوسل

دلم بجاء آمان لعابك له م وكسولك صحة ذانكم اعلية الامن لم في خبر دعا فيه
 وفي ابرك الاوقات واشهر الساعات ثوبت بقا بكم كساجي الله نور
 في شوال ١٣١٦ مطابق في مارج ١٨٩٩ وما عفتكم فقد انفضي او تم ان اكتب الي
 صاحبنا الذي نلاقينا معه في شهر جنوري لما نجي واخبرني عن جواب كتابه بكم
 بورخ في رمضان مطابق في شهر ربيع الاخر والاولي ان يرسل على كل حال
 شخصاً ايضاً صاحب سر كينا في البحرين يتوقف لتجرب الذي هو يتفكر ان يوصل كيه
 من طرفه لانه فلا يخف اسعادكم اننا قبل وصوله او كذا كينا كتبنا له كتاب
 وهذا سواده واصلاً لخطركم لغاً ويجد كينا له ان يرسل الشخص الذي عيناه لوجه
 اسرعه وسواده ايضاً لعلكم بالجوهر واننا في انتظار وصوله فاذا وصل عرضا كيه
 هذا ما لزمه بيانه ودمتم سالمين وكه م حرم في دعي نفعه الله مطابق في مارج
 صحيح محمد بن عبد الله بن محمد

N^o 33

15th March 1899

From Presidency Agent -
Bahram

To. President

Yk.

I have recd. your letter N^o 57 dated
4th March and what you wrote is understood.
You instructed me to write to our friend,
whom we met in January last and to inform
him in reply to his letter to me dated the



9th February that it is better for him to
send without fail a confidential trustworthy
person to me at Bahrain to await the
communication he expects to receive regarding
the matter

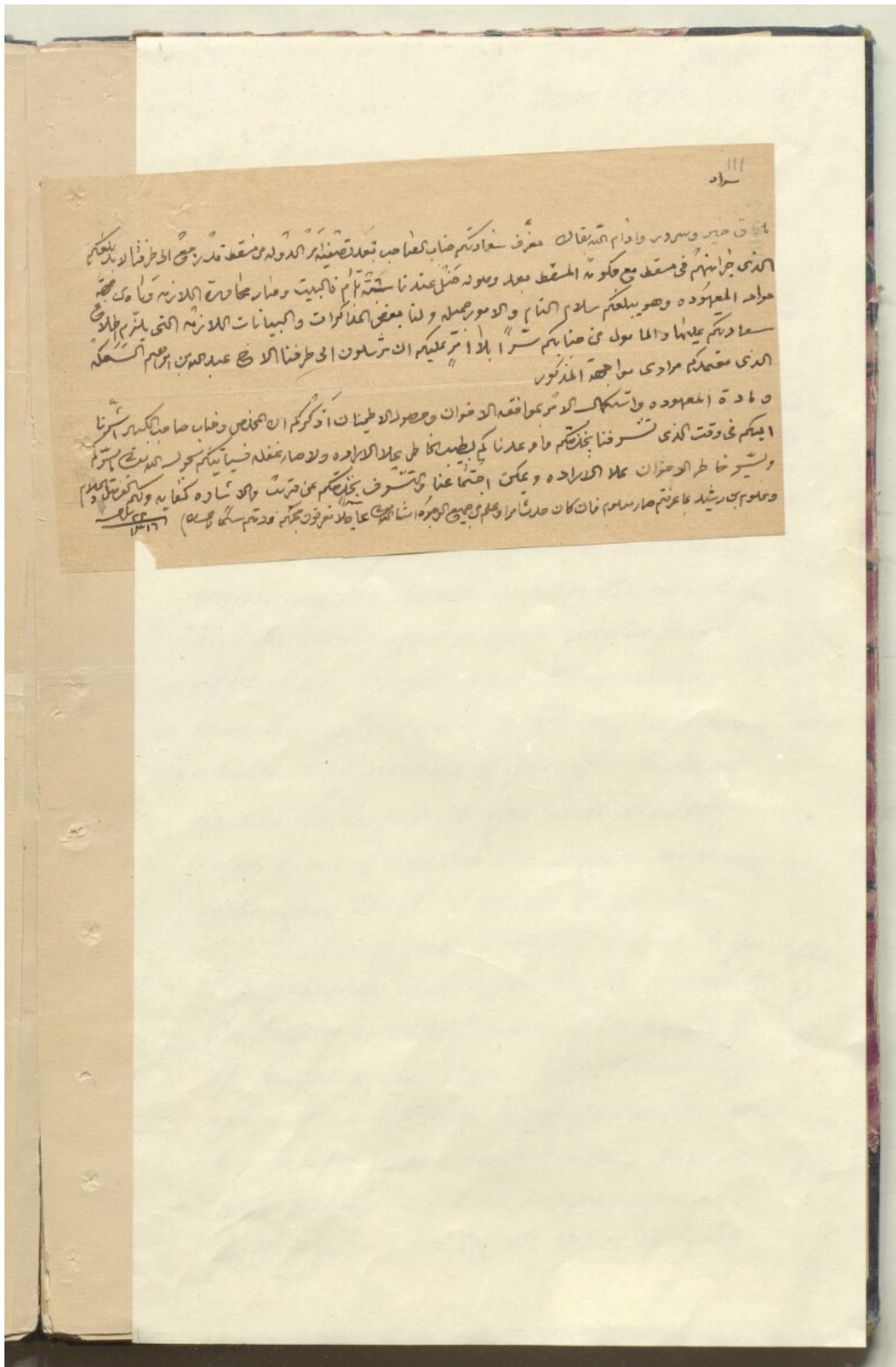
Let it not be an intimation to you that
prior to the receipt of your orders I wrote
him a letter a copy of which I enclose
for your information. I have again
written to him to send quickly the person
whom I named and a copy of which letter
is also enclosed.

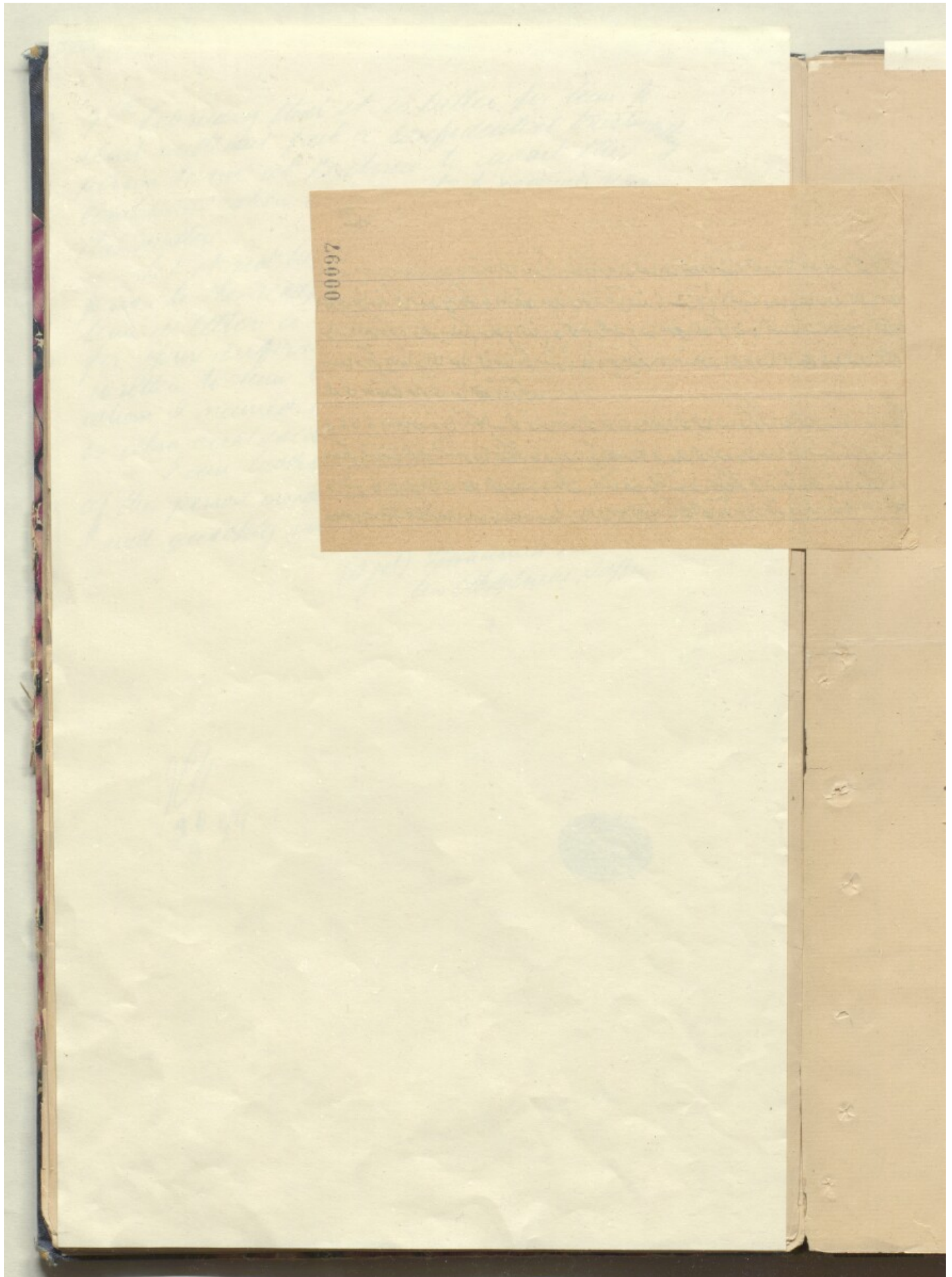
I am looking out for the arrival
of the person and when he reaches here
I will quickly inform you.

(Sgd) Mohamed Salim
bin Abdulmelik Saffer.

JP
20/99
3









00098¹²

5th March 1899.

From Agha Mohamed Rahim
To Sheikh Mobarak AlSubari
Aga.

I beg to inform you that the Sheikh after settling the Government business at Muskat has called here. No doubt you have heard of his action with the Sultan of Muskat. After his arrival he remained with us 6 days and reference was made regarding the ~~business~~ matter known to you and he sends you ample greetings. The affairs are bright and I have some communications and necessary information which it is necessary for you to know and it is hoped of you will shortly send to me Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsamara whom you trust. I desire to see him.

With reference to matter known to you & the finishing of the affair by the consent of the brothers and obtaining of tranquility the Great Sahib and I mentioned to you when we met you and promised you to pacify your mind according to (your) desires and no unkindness took place. And by the Grace of God

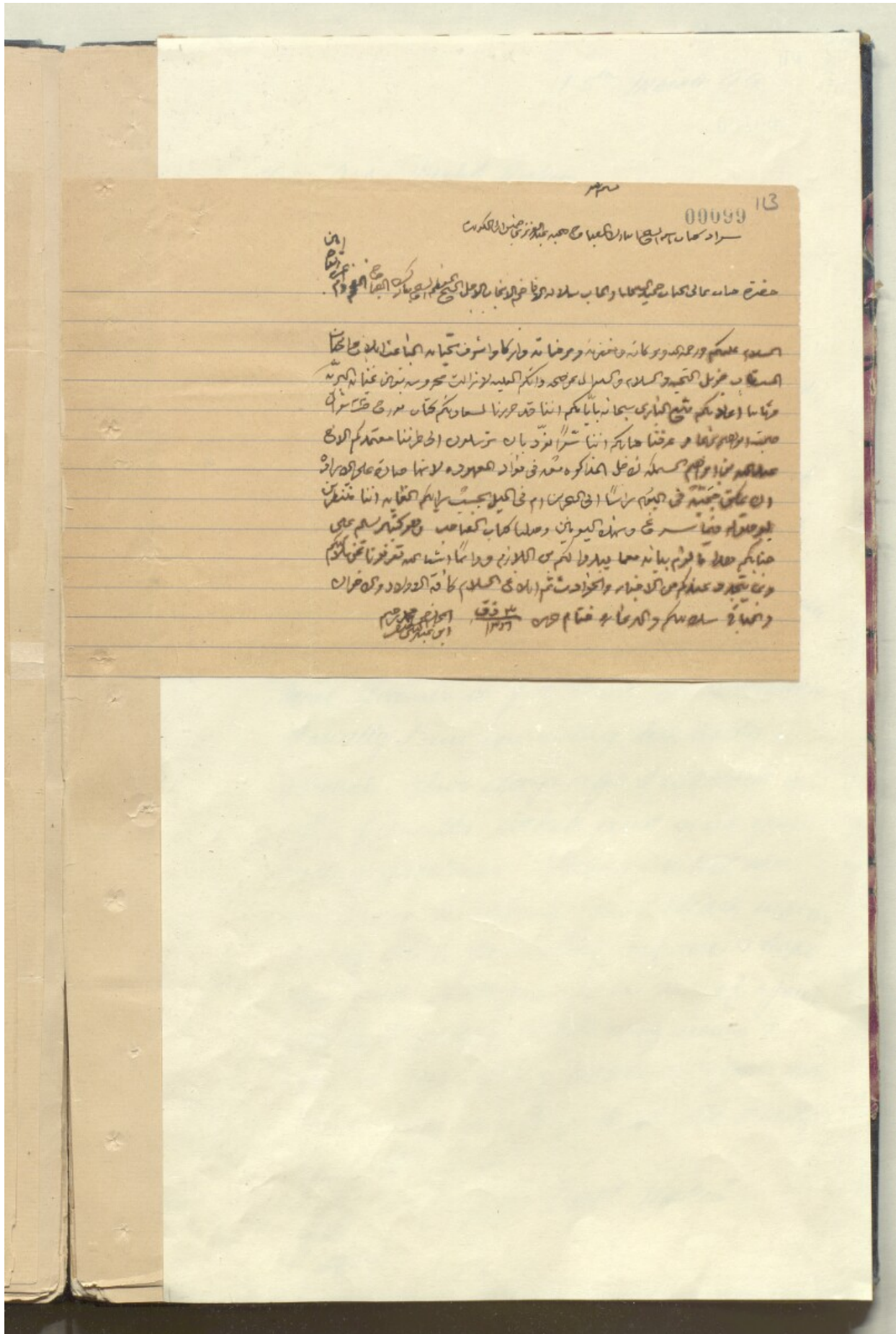


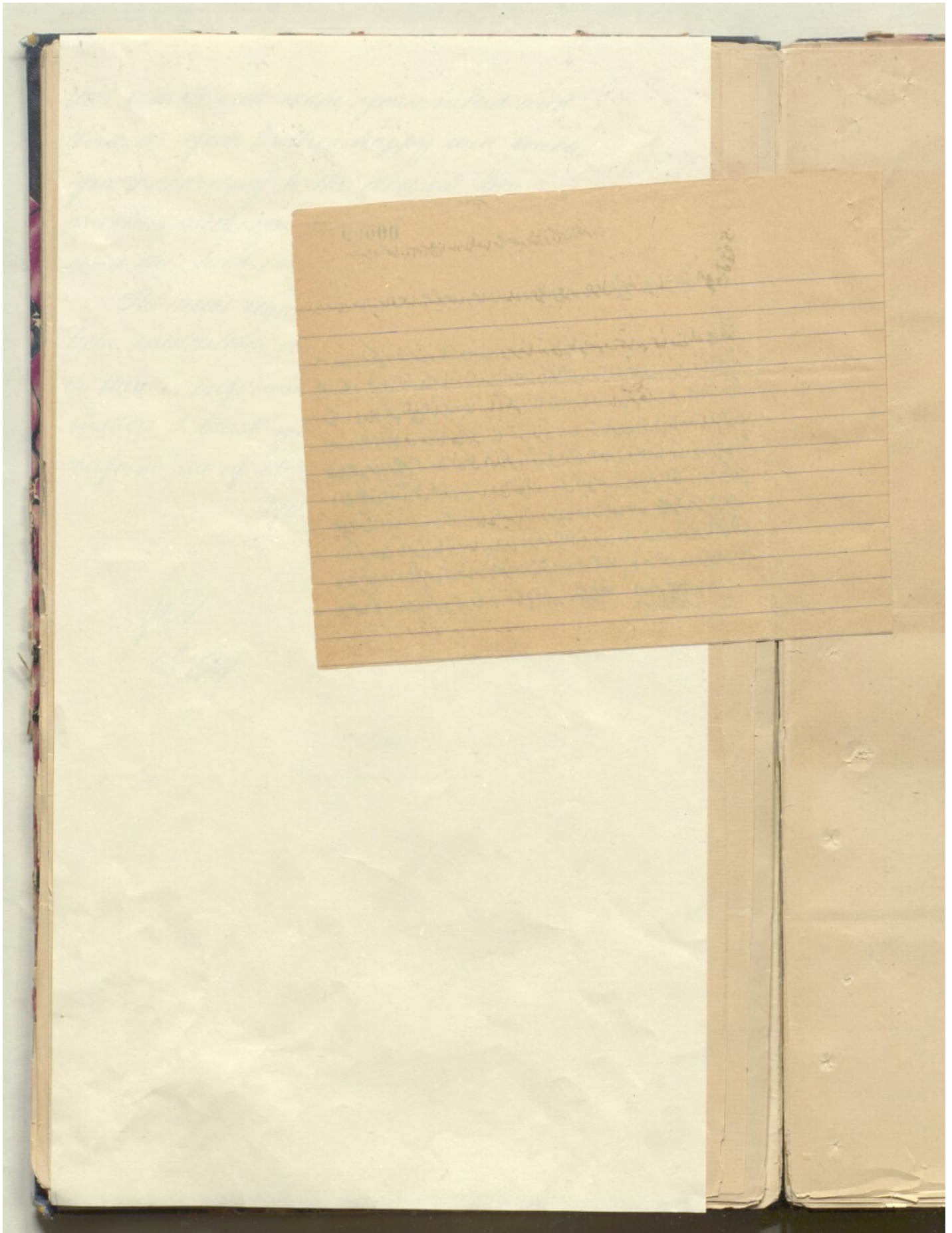
that which will make your mind and
those of your brother happy will reach
you according to the desires. My
meeting with you shortly is possible
and the hint is sufficient.

The news regarding Ben Rashid has
been understood and if anything occurs
or there is information regarding any
matters, I trust you will quickly
inform me of it.

Sgd M. A. R. al-Rasheed

JLH
2nd 19







15th March 99.

00100

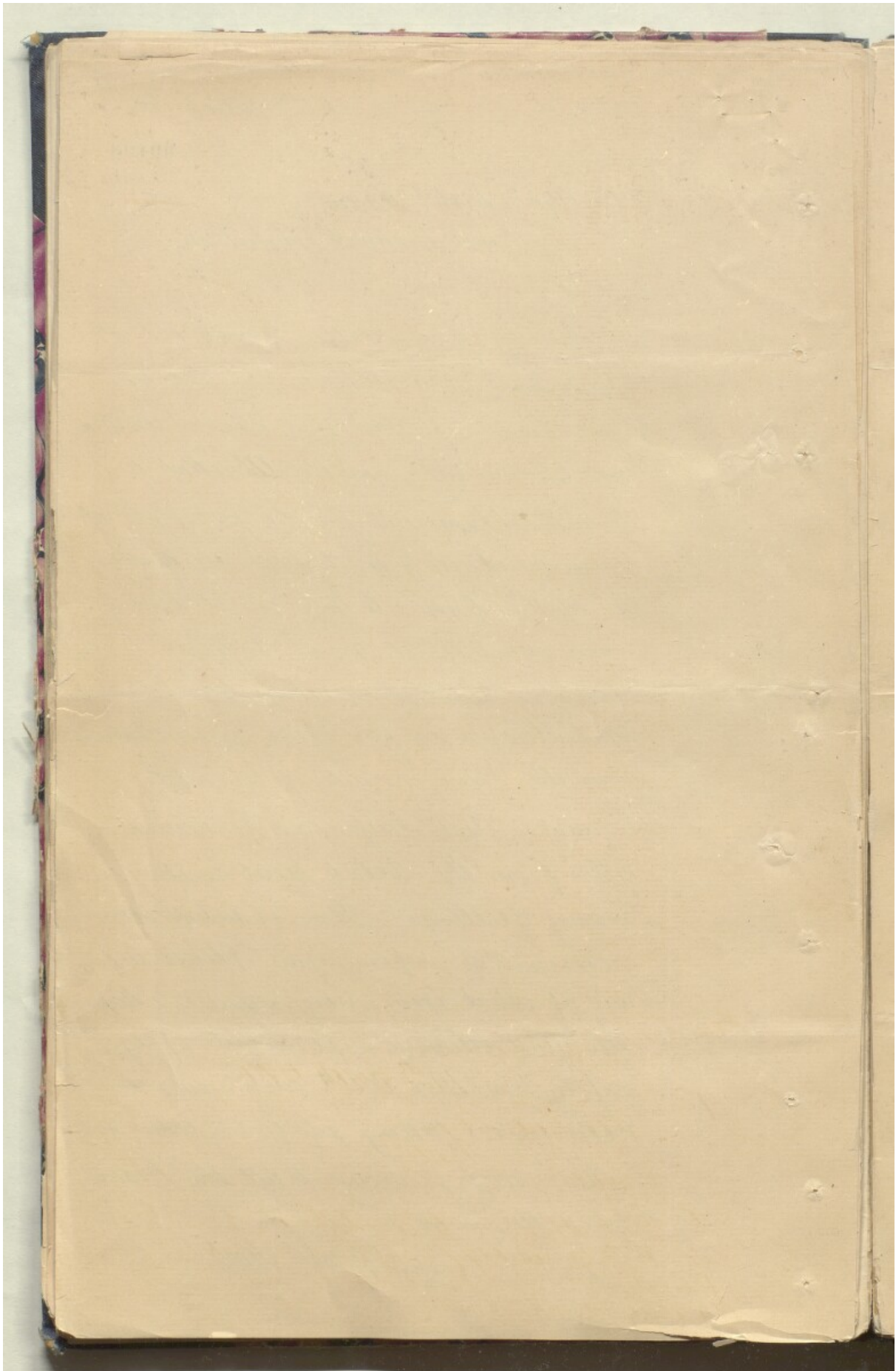
From Agha Mohd Rallim
To Mulla Mohamud AlSubah
A/C

I wrote you a letter dated the 5th March and sent it with Ibrahim bin Amer and informed you that I wished you to send me secretly Abdullah bin Ibrahim AlSamana for the purpose of communicating with him regarding the matter known to you, as it has come about as desired. Whether he can come by the boom direct or by the Mail Steamer is for your consideration. Finally I am awaiting his early arrival. Two days ago I received a letter from the Sahib and sent you many greetings. This is what was necessary to inform you. Please inform me of what you may require & hope you will always inform me of your safety, together with any news & occurrences taking place on your side.

Give my greetings to all the brothers and the sons.

M/R
15/3/99.

(Sgd) Mohd Rallim



۳۵۱

کتابخانه مجلس شورای ملی
تاسیس ۱۳۰۲

حضرت

3

سوف فرمیں اللہ کے
نام سے محمد بن عبد اللہ

N^o 35.

17th March 1899.

From Residency Agent
Bahrain

To Resident

Ap. With reference to my letter N^o 33
dated 15th March 1899 sent by Dumbhook
of Cholan Hussein by Moolada Zair
etc, in which is written the negotiations



between us and our friend who is known
to you, I pray of God that it has reached
you and you have understood it.

Let it not be hidden to you that a
day later I received a letter from him by
a person sent by him named ~~Abdullah~~ ^{Abdullah} bin
Ibrahim, in which ~~there~~ were two enclosures
referring to matters which you will understand
they are enclosed ~~herein~~.

For this purpose I have sent my servant
Abdulahman Wazzan in a special boat with
this letter and beg an early reply and
I will carry out your orders.

(s) M^h ^{Abdullah} bin ^{Abdullah}
Saffer

P.S. With reference to the person whom I named
he should send to me, up to date he has not
come and when he arrives I will inform you.

JCH
2¹/₃ 99

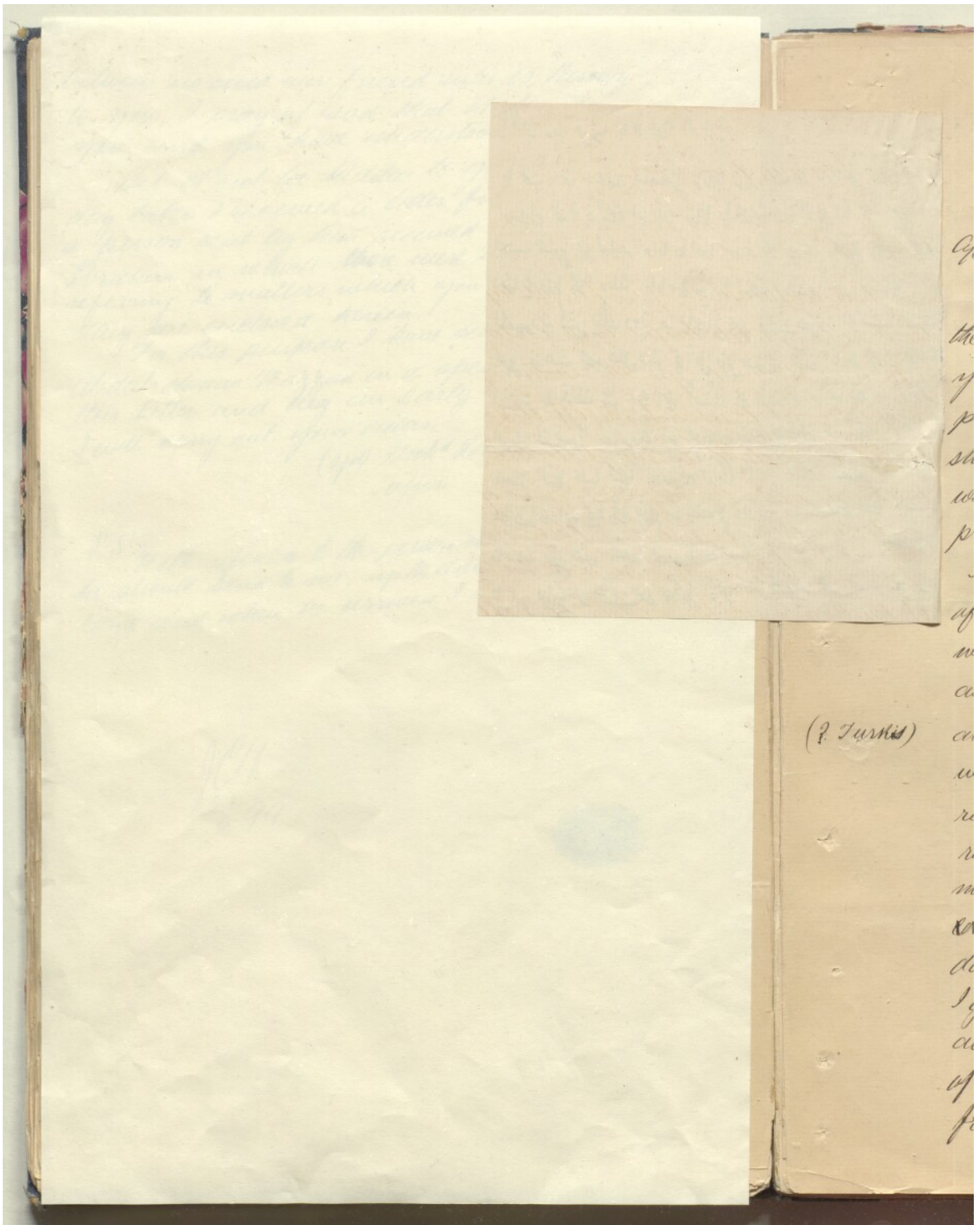




١١٦
الحج دمه محروما بالالطاف الربانيه

يا محب اني اعمد شفقكم وانا بالاول لست لك ووضيحت لك ونيت لك مسئلة
الاطلاق الذي في البصة انه يكون تدفلا بالاحياء لانه الربع انا مستعملهم وراغب فيهم
اجب هميتهم على لستهم وانا ما انقاس برأعي البحرين واهلها عان المدفونين ما لهم
اتباع قضا ولا وبلد وانا قضا توف بالبصة املاك قسيم ونماير بالبر والربع
المسعودين كثير يتكبدون من الجمال عنهم ولا يندفرون الا شيا الذي احببني
لهم من حيث يصير خلا عظيم في اطرافهم صدي الآن انا على اجواب الى اعطيتك
انشاء ما اخلف عنه اذا اني اوتيت على الاملاك واني قضا من الرجال الحنفي في
الدولة لقيصير مددو بها فيه الاطلاق تدفلا بالاحياء عن لستهم الباطل لما انما
جعلت النظر علينا ليشاء الاطلاق كذا الذي بالبصة تدفون تحت الحماير ووضيحت
الاضواء انه يبارك فيهم ما عندهم قلافة وقصدهم فقط الاطلاق وهم
ما يبين منهم خبر اخبر محفوظ ما يبين الا من الربع ارجو لكم المستعملون
الى امر الاطلاق الا طعنانه انما والاد انا للقيام محفوظ لربع صالح

(? Turbid)





117
00103

From

Hambarh bin Subah

Ap

I have confidence in your friendship, I at the beginning wrote to you and explained to you and stated to you the matter of the properties at Busrak to the effect that they should be included in the protection as I want and desire the friends because of the protection they exercise over their subjects

I am not to be compared with the Sheikh of Bahrain and the inhabitants of Oman, who have no followers (or appendages) but I as you know have large properties in Busrak and tribes in the plains, and the friends whom you know will be very angry of my removing myself from them and will not respect ~~even~~ the matter which may cause me to go to them, as ~~there will be~~ great ~~expression~~ ~~expression~~ as there will be a great danger near them. I still hold to the promise I gave you and please God I will not act to the contrary, if I obtain security of the properties and I want a letter from the gentleman, this from the British

(? Turned)



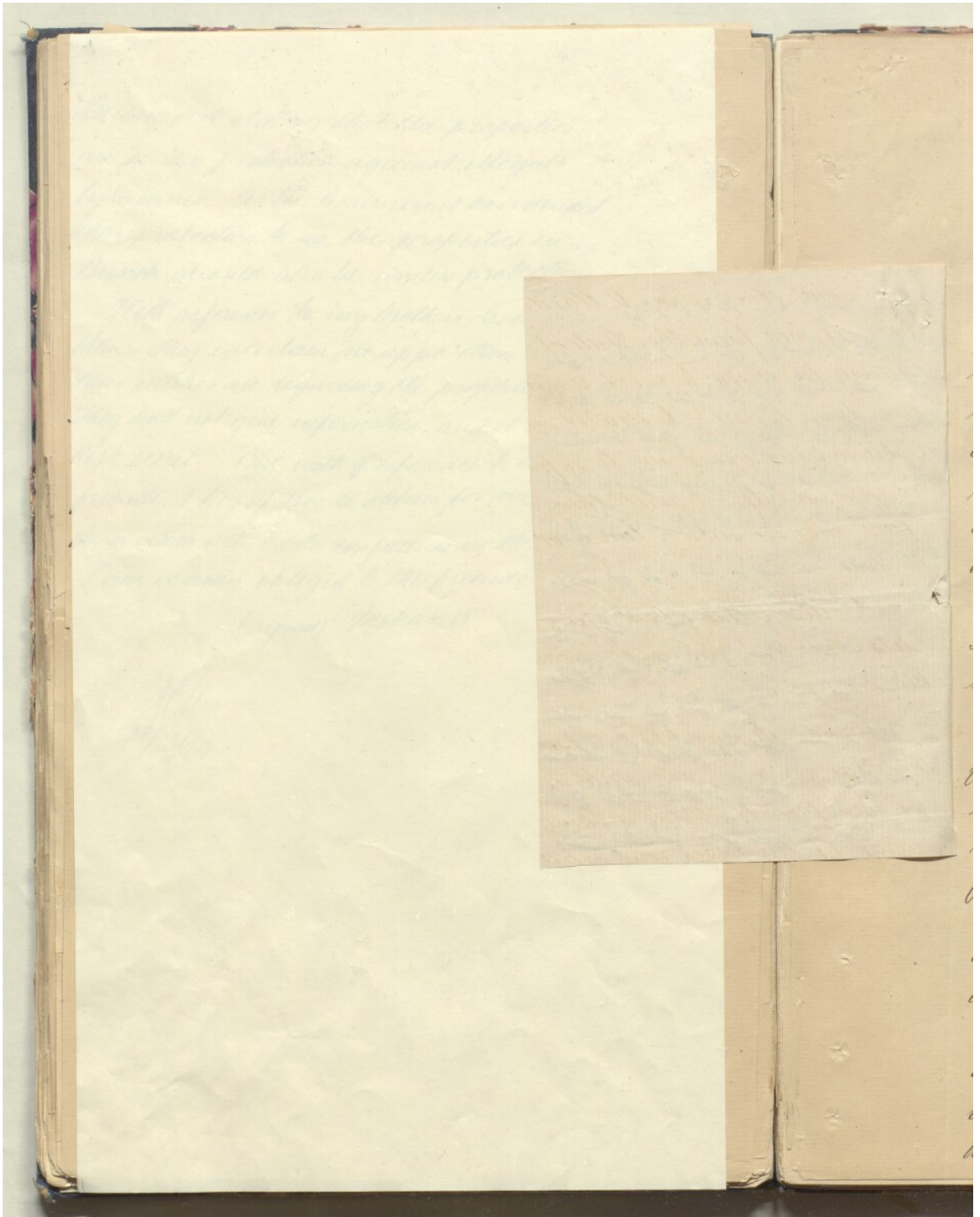
Government stating that the properties
are under protection against illegal
tyrannies. As the Government has extended
their protection to us, the properties in
Busrah should also be under protection.

With reference to my brothers, God bless
them - They entertain no apposition and
their wishes are regarding the properties.
They will not give information, and it is
kept secret. But with reference to the
friends I beg of you to obtain for me some
thing which will create confidence in the mind.
I am wholly obliged to the friends
(signed) Mobarek.

JCU
20/3/99



١١٨
يا محب صلّنا ربنا بآياتك ورد ملقّب من والي لبيك وانه تلويح
بمستودع من لبيك برّا الى اللوح والاساس وطلبين منا المساعده
وتأخير الدروب وردنا لهم جواب لقد رنا هذا ما يصير والرضا
يسئلون عن حبيبتكم قلنا لهم عاده دائما ايجدون ويرودون
البضائع الهاء الارضا ماعود تلويح لغاوي بلوي وتباريتكم لرضاها
العاله ملقّب يسئل عن حبيبتكم لاري في سترها منا لافاده
وردنا لهم جواب اها قبل هذا ثلاث دفعات هذي الرابع
يبدل هذا اخباري رشيد جميعا كفاير حاجم زينين واياه
ولا يفي اليه هياير عند كفاير وعما رايا قدونه في طه ارضه ويرجوا كفاير
عليه ومنا جدا فظهر الصداقه وترجمنا المساعده ومنا لهم
منا عن الارباب الصداقه ولانه منزل قبلة في لسماء مافه تلاته
الارباب المحافظ على قوايله في التسلل لراد الابله وكثيرها على علم
ونقص في هذه لسنه وديره محله والاد غالي فيها والهم





114
00105

Ye

Some days prior to this date a letter was received from the Wali of Busrah stating his desire to erect a Telegraph line from Busrah to Koweit and Basrah Alhasa and asked me to safeguard the road and help. I sent them a reply to excuse me, as such a thing could not be done.

He also asked about your visit & I told him that you occasionally call here and go.

Also the Telegraph Officer Bulky came from Fao. and on this date a letter was received from the Wali asking for the reason of his visit and wanted information from me, and I replied that he had come on three previous occasions and this one was the fourth for the purpose of change of air.

News regarding Bin Rashid is that all the tribes are not on good terms with him and there is no respect on the part of tribes left for him and now

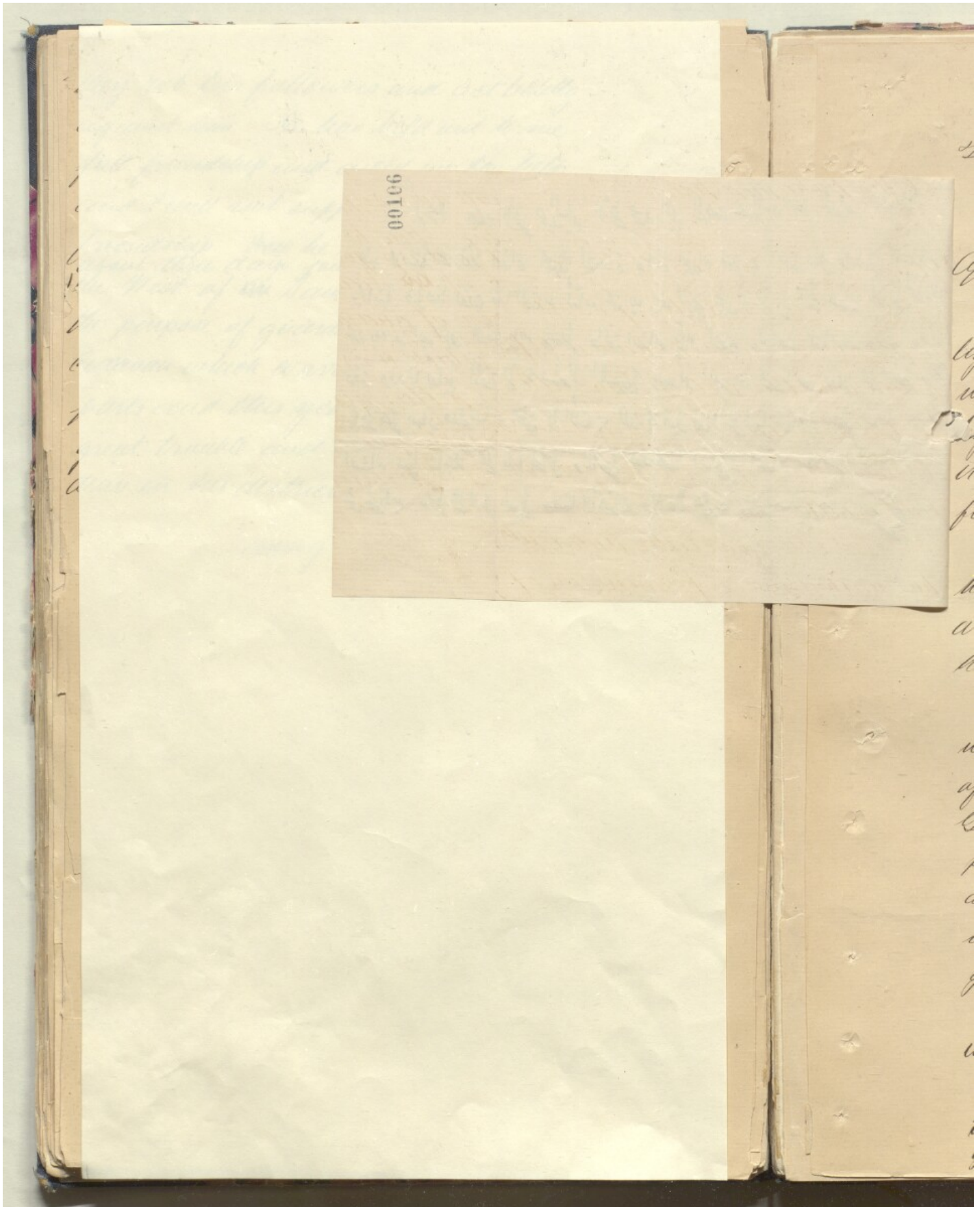


they rob his followers and act boldly
against him. He has held out to me
full friendship and asked me for help.
and I will not support him except in
friendship. Now he ~~has~~ is residing on
about three days journey to
the West of ~~the~~ Samud about three for
the purpose of guarding the road of the
caravan which conveys food to his
parts and this year he has experienced
great trouble and loss. Food stuffs are
dear in his district.

insigned.



١٢٥
 بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
 عن اوصاف عن تلك الذاة احمد لصفاء و اخي اخذنا قلا في اهن حال فلان لم انشاء لنا انك
 وثانيا قبل هذا تقدم منا الجنا بكتاب عن يد اخي محمد قورج وانا الجنا بكتاب الذي وردنا
 عن يد من اهدى شهد الاقل بابا و صلهم و انتم انشاء بكتاب الصلي و لقايمه التام بحنه و لوم و لانه با ابرك
 و قد وردنا لكتاب المورخ في استقال المسني و صلهم البري في هذا نال على صحتهم و بعد ذلك و كمال
 ما شؤهم صار مملونا و اخي با الكتاب الذي قبل هذا شريها عمارا في رفع بوقته و نسا على الجنا
 انشاء منم عاجلا على ما با الحاصل و لا ماول بعد هذا استمدار اعلام ملا منم لانه لا تقطع عنا عمارا في
 شؤنا به و منم على لاي لديم و معنا الاخوان و الاولا يملونه و دهم ما لينا و السلام
 مبارك
 الضابط





00167 14

6th March 1899.

To

Agha Mohamed Rabin.

My

I sent you a letter previous to this by the son of Sheikh Mohamed Alfaraj, which was the reply to your letter sent by him from Bushire. I trust in God that it has reached you & that you are enjoying full health.

And now your letter dated 15th February has reached me informing me of your arrival at Bahrain and what you stated has been understood.

In the previous letter I wrote what was necessary to represent and I pray of God an early reply from you may be according to my desires. It is prayed that after this you will ~~repeated~~ always write without omission the information of your good health gladdening the heart. Respect

Inform me of what you may want.

I salute him who is most dear to you and ~~my~~ brothers & sons send greetings. Sgd Mubarak AlSubaihi



Telegram

22.

To Resident

Following from Fao begins

"Busrah writes no news of importance. Cannot think what is meant. I am now at Fao.

Please let me know my probable movements as soon as possible. Kendall." Inds.

22/3/99. Munyarin

Replied at once to say
Laurence can return to
Mohammerah

23/3/99. (J?) M. J. M.



1235
122
00108

Telegram to Foreign

Your telegram of the 16th March
The Consul at Basrah informs me
that he has no news of importance,
and I think it is not likely that
the Turks will attempt anything
against Koweit for some time
as the hot weather is beginning +
A Confidential Agent of Basrah
is expected shortly, & I will send
the agreement by him also
money if the Gov^t of India
authorise it. Wade.

23/3/99



Telegram

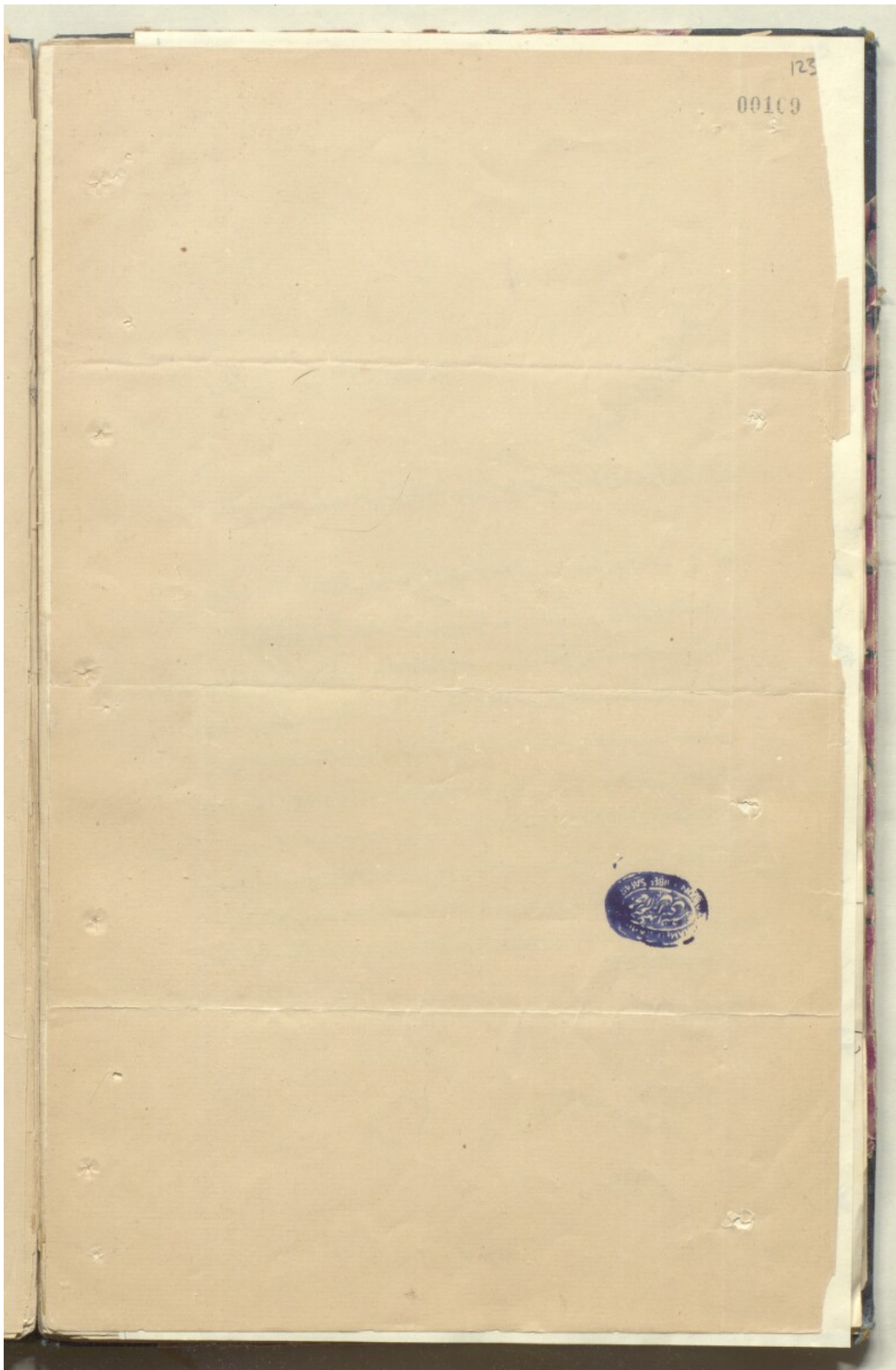
Fr: Foreign

Your telegram of the 23rd March

You may send ratified
agreement & money as you
propose

Foreign

Recd 24/3/99.





من

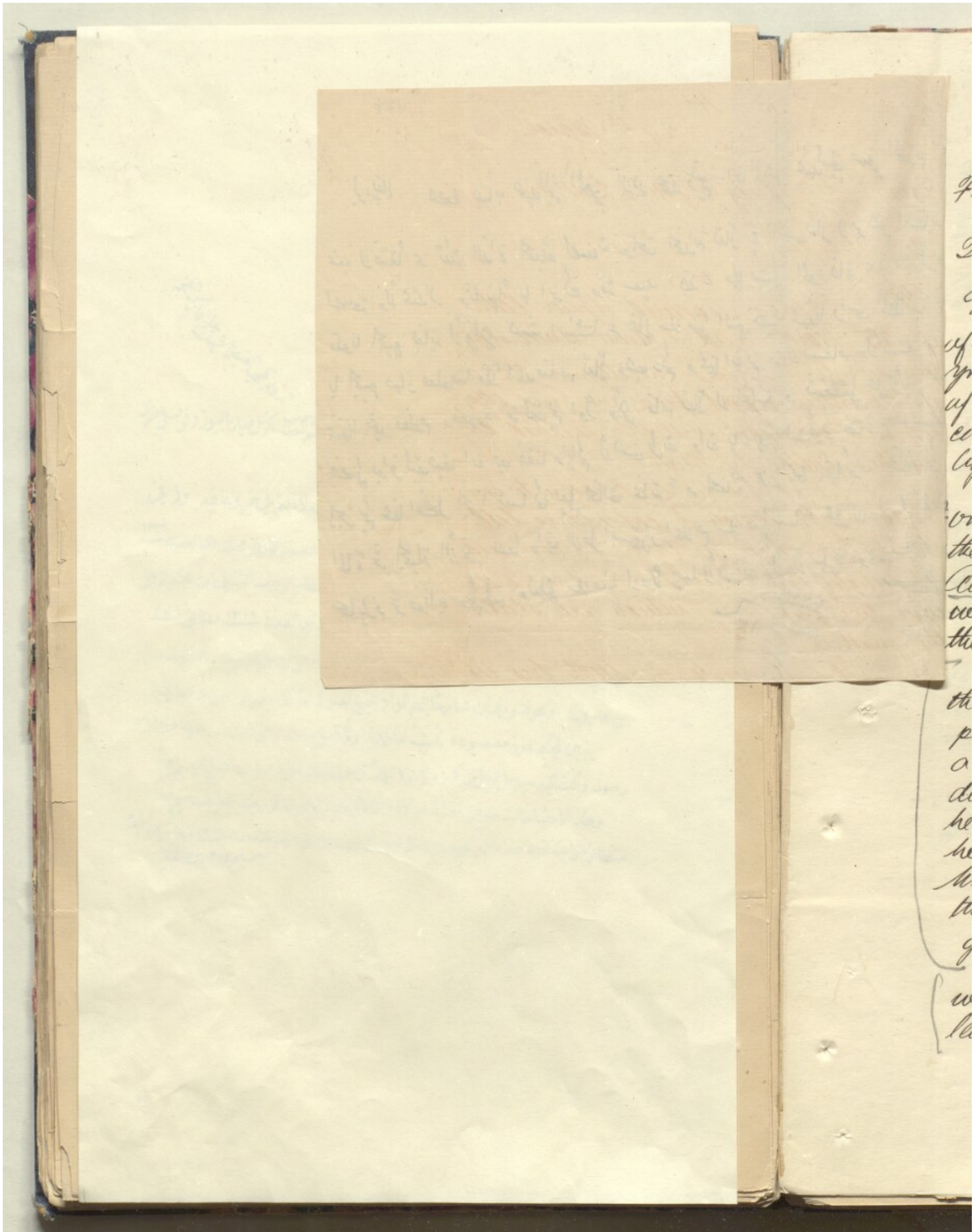
من البحرين مرسول في ٢٩ مارچ ١٨٩٩

مكة المكرمة
البحرين
البحرين

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي شوكة والجلال الاجل الاحم الحنا الكرميل بالبور وفوسل خلد

والمجاء آمين. بعد ان ادم وسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم كعليه لانتم في خير وعافيه وذي في
ابركه الاوقات واشرف ساعات تشرف بكتابكم كساي السحر الورق في ١٣٦٦
مطابق ٢٩ مارچ ١٨٩٩ وماعرفتم فقال النسخ ابنته الانتظام للبروت الشاخي من محكم لاجل
وصول الجواب من سعادتم في ميل الشاخي فلا يخفاه حله في تعقد ١٦٣٧٦ مطابق ٢٧
مارچ ١٨٩٩ وصلنا كتاب من الصديق للمود باسم محكم حجة رجل من طرفه في عبد اللطيف
بن هارون ويخوفه ومقايين شامخا فيهم المواد للبيع يعلو كلفا لا حظوهم بالصحة وكعافيه
ينبغي لمحكم غايه مقصوده يكتب له امرادته اول قبل امسال الرجل الامين من طرفه ولعل
وصول ذالك كيد سيرسل الرجل المذكور ولا يود ايضا وصول احال لطفه قبل ان تصل اليه امرادته
وهذا الاحتياطات منه عن افشاء مواد والامر بمحكم والرجل المذكور عبد اللطيف متوقفا
لانتظام جواب كتابه هذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم بخير وسين وكلام مرع فلا في تعقد ١٦٣٧٦ مطابق ٢٩ مارچ ١٨٩٩
صالح محمد بن عبد الله

View on the Qatar Digital Library: http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100023520803.0x000030





125
00111

N^o 40

29th March

From Resident Agent Bahrain

To Resident

Sir I have received your letter of 25th March and I have understood what you wrote. You mentioned the awaiting of a further report from me and that a communication will be received by me by the following mail.

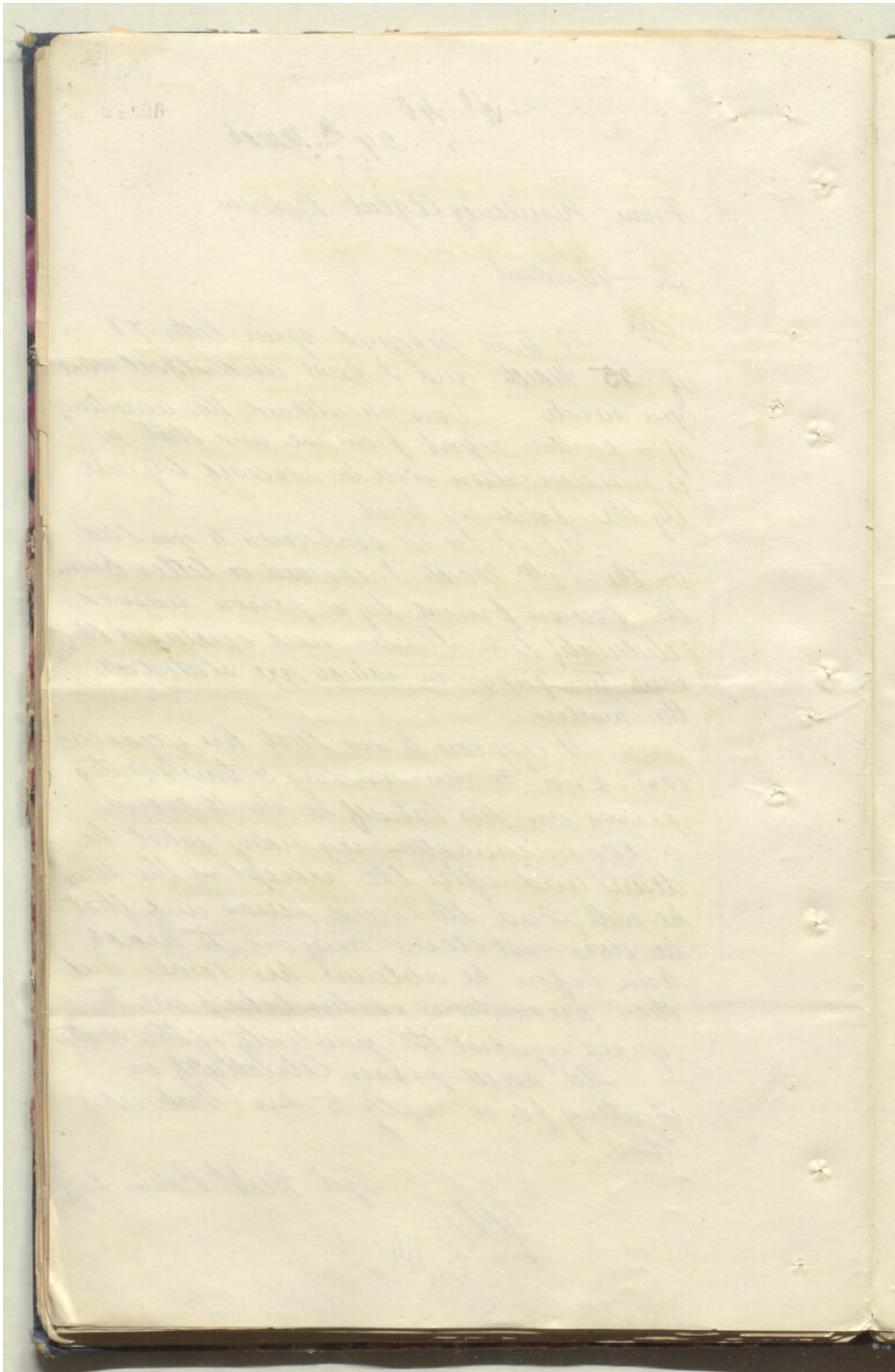
Let it be unknown to you that on the 27th March I received a letter from the known friend, by a person named Abdulatif bin Hassan, and enclosed therein were two papers in which are stated all the matters.

It appears to me that his ideas are that prior to his sending a trustworthy person on his behalf, he should receive a communication regarding what he desires and after the receipt of the same he will send the said person and that he does not desire any one to reach him before he obtains his desires and these precautions on his behalf are to guard against the publicity of the matter.

The said person Abdulatif is waiting for a reply to his (Musharraf's) letter.

Sgd Moh^d Rukim Saffar

15/4/99





126
24th March 89
90112

From Sheikh Mubarek AlSubah

To Raja Mohamed Pasha

YC.

I have received your letter in the most blessed hour, dated 22nd Shawal & 3rd Zil Hade. I read them with the utmost joy as they referred to your good health which with me is principle matter and what you wrote is understood by me.

With reference to your remark that I should uphold and preserve (the agreement), this matter is understood and known to me from the beginning to the end. May God Almighty never discontinue your devotion to me & c.

Verily I trust you will always write of your good health and do not discontinue the information & honour me with what may be required.

Convey my greetings to the sons & on our part I & the Brothers & sons send greetings.

(Sgd) Mubarek bin Subah

JCS
15
4 89



127
اهي متفناه تقال ببقاكم
انه عمباله الراهم لسمك مثلا عرفناكم مسافر له من ايام قبل وصولكم
والافاده الذي يحبونه الطلاب عنا عليها نأمل ان يرووه لنا بكتابه
نطلع عليها قبل حفظكم فيها لفرقة منا ايجيب منا اجواب

Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsamirah as
I formerly informed you, had gone
on a journey some time before
the receipt of your letters. I trust
you will write in the letter the news
you desire me to know so that I
may know the same before your
coming to this side and you may
receive a reply from me.

JCL 15/11/99



128
00113
الحمد لله
يا حب العزيز الطلعة على البصيلة الذي داخل كلبنا المرفق شغال
وذكرت من طرف معاد المعهود واستمال لأمر بموافقة الأصدقاء ووصولهم
وانه نذكرنا انه اجتناب وحبنا البشير انتم لنا في وقت الذي كنتم عندنا
واوعدتم بطيب خاطر على لاراده وان لم يكن فقلتم وان سفي يا سينا اجعل
تعال ما يسرنا ويسر خاطر الأصدقاء وتتم بعد هذا وصلنا كلبنا المرفق شغال
وذكرت انه المعاد صارت على لاراده وتطلبه عبد البراهم لسمهم فلا تتركهم
صار معلوما فلا عدا منا وجهدكم ولا افلا تاس من شفقكم
فبعد البراهم المذكور قبل وصول لسمهم لنا ليس خاطر بطرف بل هو مسافر
فيا حب ذكرتم استمال لأمر بموافقة الأصدقاء ولا لتفاق مثلاً ذكرتم لانه ان
الأصدقاء لا يكون منهم ذلك الا ان يكون لأمر كما عرفنا اولاً وكما افدنا
شفافاً نجسم الاول والاخر وعرفه انتم يا شفقنا الاني يا حب ما شفق
عصا حب المحي هنا نرفقه القايه ونطلع على ما يجب تعريفه انه لا عود صارت على لاراده
وانا الله تعالى يدرك لنا بقاكم يا ابي ما جيت ها المسلك في شامهم ام محاذر خاشع
بل حب لذاتك الطرف اجسب لسمهم وحبهم واني رجل مستقيم اجتناب لسمهم
احب هكنا فعلاً ما يجب عودتي اسألكم الموافقة بالشروط الموافقة لطرفي والصفاء
واطمئنان الأصدقاء حيث لا يكون منهم موافقة الا ان يكون اعلان الذي في
لبصرة مع الطوارق تكون تحت احماء ويدرج ذكر ذلك بالاوراق وبالأمر
الذي يكون بيدي لاني اسألكم المبالاة على حسب محبتي لهم والا انا ما باي
من ذلك اجملهم مظهر قطعاً لأن ياخذ وخال لي بزياد وليناً انا يستصني
اقليم نا فعين



129

00114

I have read the enclosures in your
 letter of 22nd Shawal and you referred
 to the known matters and the settlement
 of the affair with the consent of the
 brothers and obtaining confidence
 and you reminded me that you &
 the Great One (i.e. Resident) limited to me
 when you were here and promised
 satisfaction, and that you have
 not been unmindful and that
 which will give pleasure to me & the
 brothers will reach me. After the same
 I received your letter dated 3rd Zil Kada
 and you mentioned that the affairs
 have turned out as desired and you
 asked for Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsa'ad
 and all you wrote has been noted.

The said Abdullah was not here
 on the receipt of your letters but had gone
 on a journey. You mentioned the
 settlement of the matter with the consent
 of the brothers and their union; but the
 brothers will not do so unless matters
 are concluded as I originally told you
 and according to what I verbally
 informed you on your first and second
 visit.

You mentioned that possibly shortly you
 will pay honour me (with a visit). My friend
 I do not see just now a reason for coming
 until I understand the result and know that
 the affairs are according to the desire
 as stated in your letter.

I did not enter into this affair



out of necessity ^{on} ~~of~~ fear of anyone
but because I love them on account
of their good principles and protection
I am person who admires good
principles and love the same and
according to my friendship I ~~deserve~~
deserve to be met in conditions which
are agreeable to both sides and the
future and the ~~grain~~ ^{their} satisfaction
of the brothers, as they will not
agree unless that the ~~British~~ properties
~~and~~ at Busrah & its vicinity ~~be~~
under protection and the same
be mentioned in the agreements and
document in my possession as I deserve
consideration on account of my regard
for them. I have not experienced
any trouble from the other party
(Turks) as they now ~~they~~ desire me
greatly & I am followed by a
useful people.

PC4
15/4 99



130
00115

N^o 66 of 1899

Bahrain 7th April 99.

From Residency Agent Bahrain

To Resident

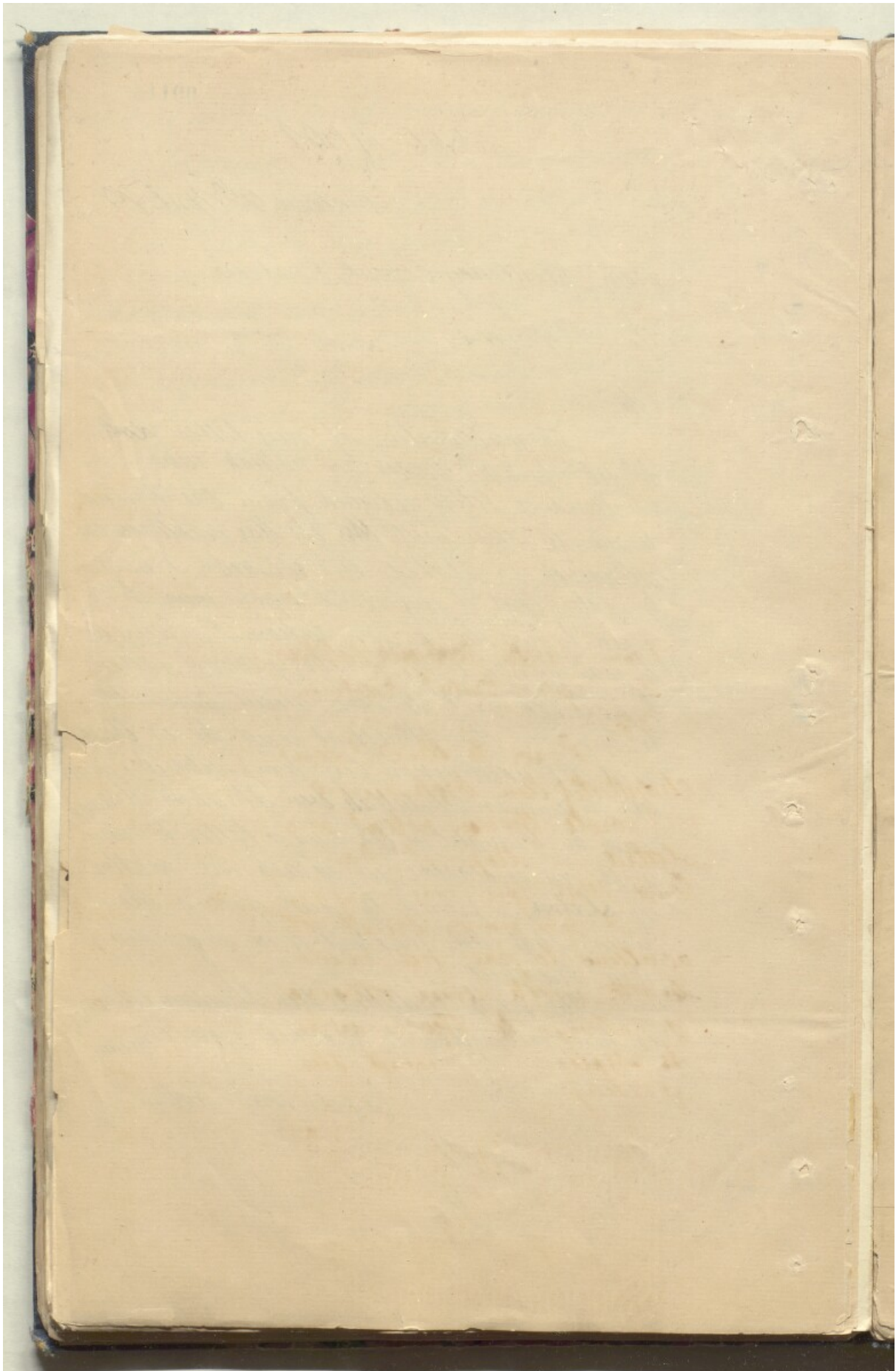
Sir,

In continuation of my letter N^o 40 of 29th March in which was enclosed a letter received from the Friend to me together with ~~the~~ its two enclosures in which is stated his wishes, I beg to state that I impressed upon him to send to me the person whom I named to him to send and the person whom I pointed out to him came himself to me on the 7th April and he is Trust and depended upon by him (Mubarak) and his name is Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsaifi and he brought with him a letter to me with an enclosure in which the matter is stated referred to and giving the news that has reached him regarding Bin Baschid.

The said Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsaifi is here awaiting to receive your communication.

(Sgd) Mohd Kallim Saifu

KH
15/4/99





131

691116

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
 بناب المدام لعل الرحم لا في محمد رحم ابني المرحوم عبد الله بن صفر الحمد دام
 عني لافقاً في تلك الداء المحمداً لصفاء واني اخذته تعالى في الضم حال ادم الله تعالى لم ذلك
 ونا نياً اني قبل هذا سبق للجناب ذريته الداد بيه عبد اللطيف ابني محمد سعيد الهاروني وعرفنا
 بها عنكم لزم ترفيق الاول باب وصلته اليكم وانتم انشاء بلك الصبح ولعافيه التام ثم اننا نأمل الحلام
 سلاماً لسائر لا تنقطع عنا على الدوام مما يلزم غرضنا به ونبلغه لا عناء عن لديكم ومعنا الاشرفه
 ولا ولاد يملونه ورحم سائين والدم
 ١٣١٦
 ١٣١٦
 ١٣١٦

2nd Sept 1899

From Sheikh Mobarek AlSubah
 To Ghra Mohd Rahim

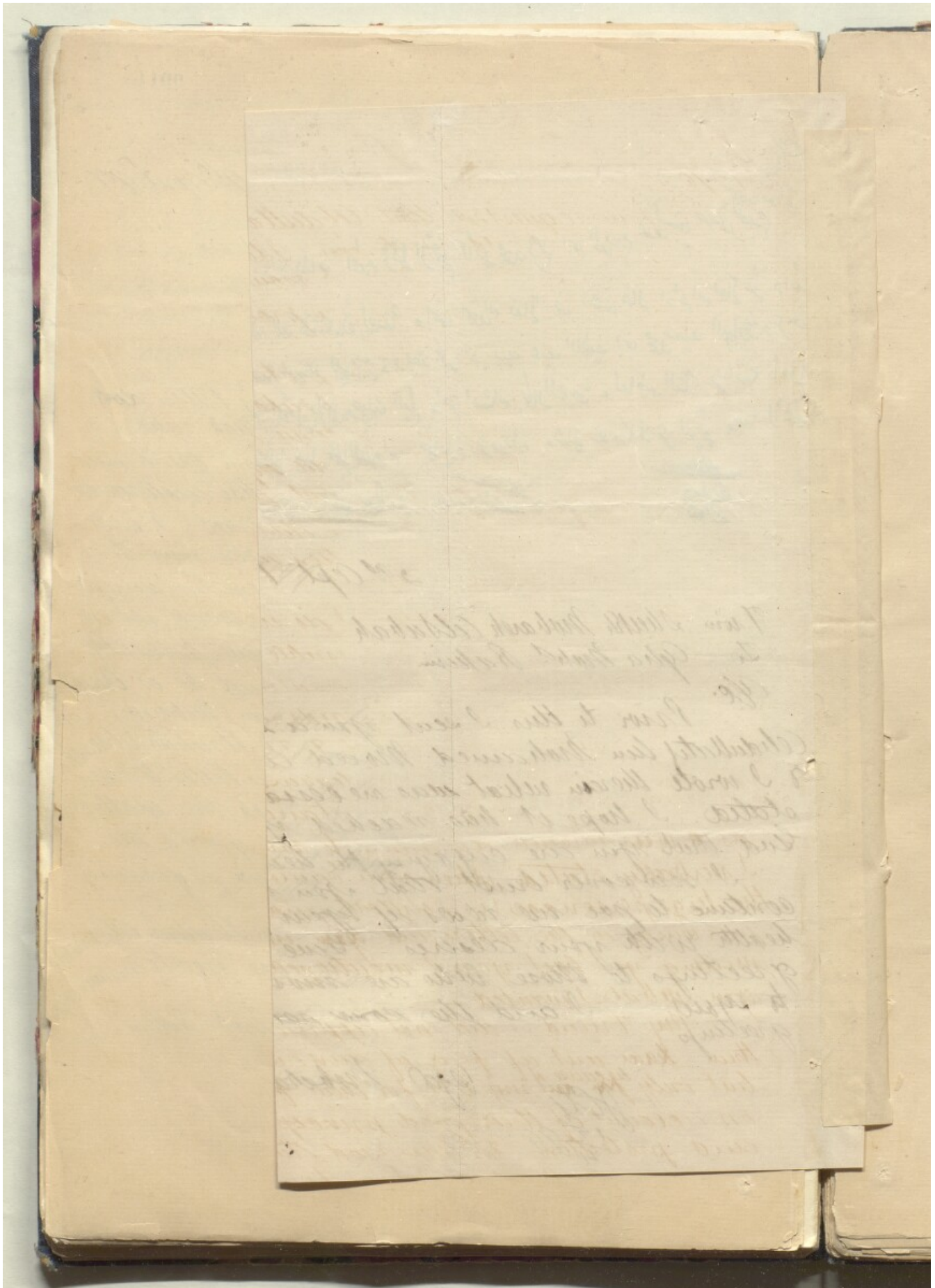
My

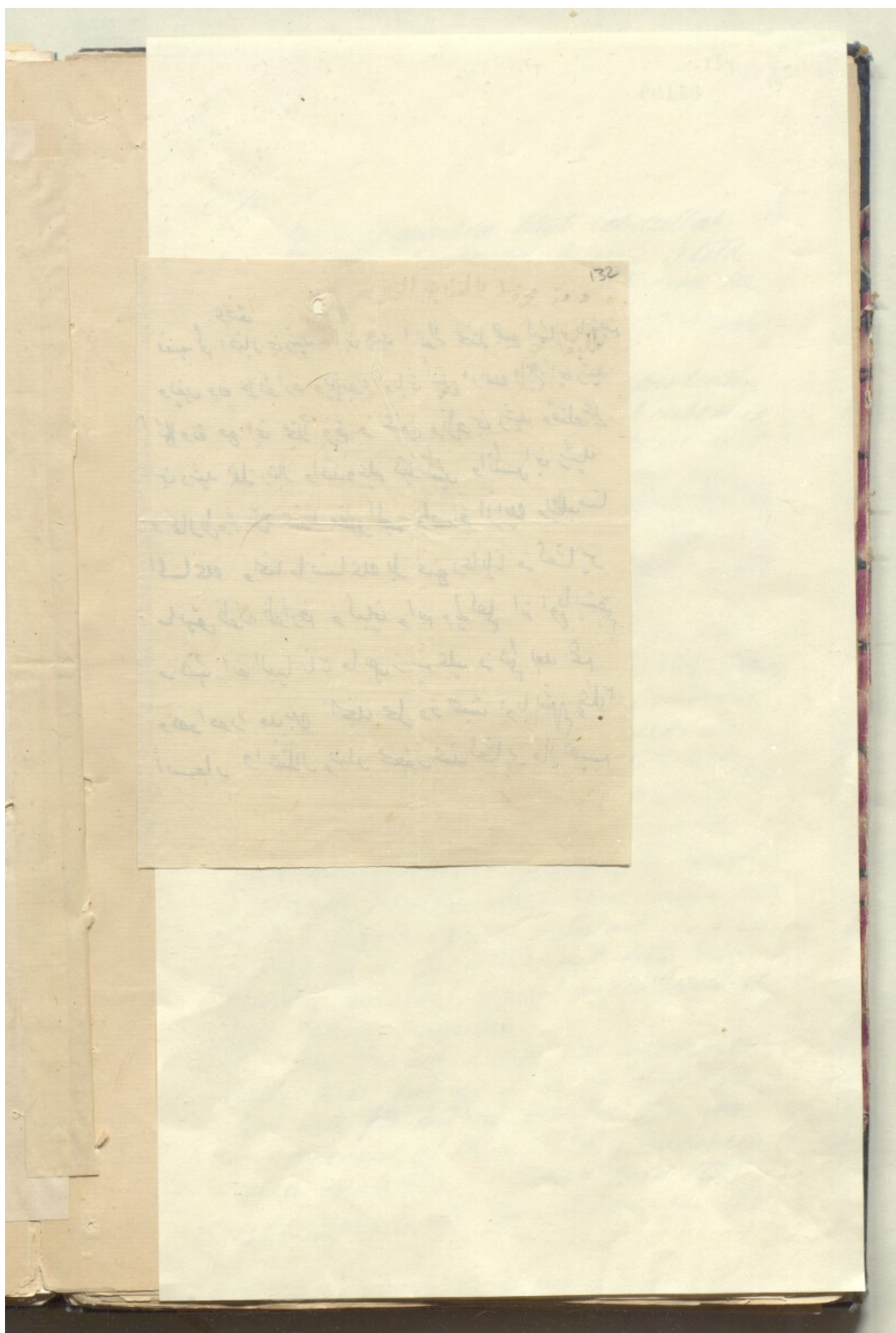
Prior to this I sent you a letter by
 Abdullatif bin Mohamed Wood AlHarun
 & I wrote therein what was necessary to be
 stated. I hope it has reached you & please
 God that you are enjoying the best of health.

I moreover trust that you will
 continue to give me news of your good
 health with your desires. Give my
 greetings to those who are most dear
 to you. I and the sons send
 greetings.

(sgd) Mobarek AlSubah

JCL
 15/99
 4

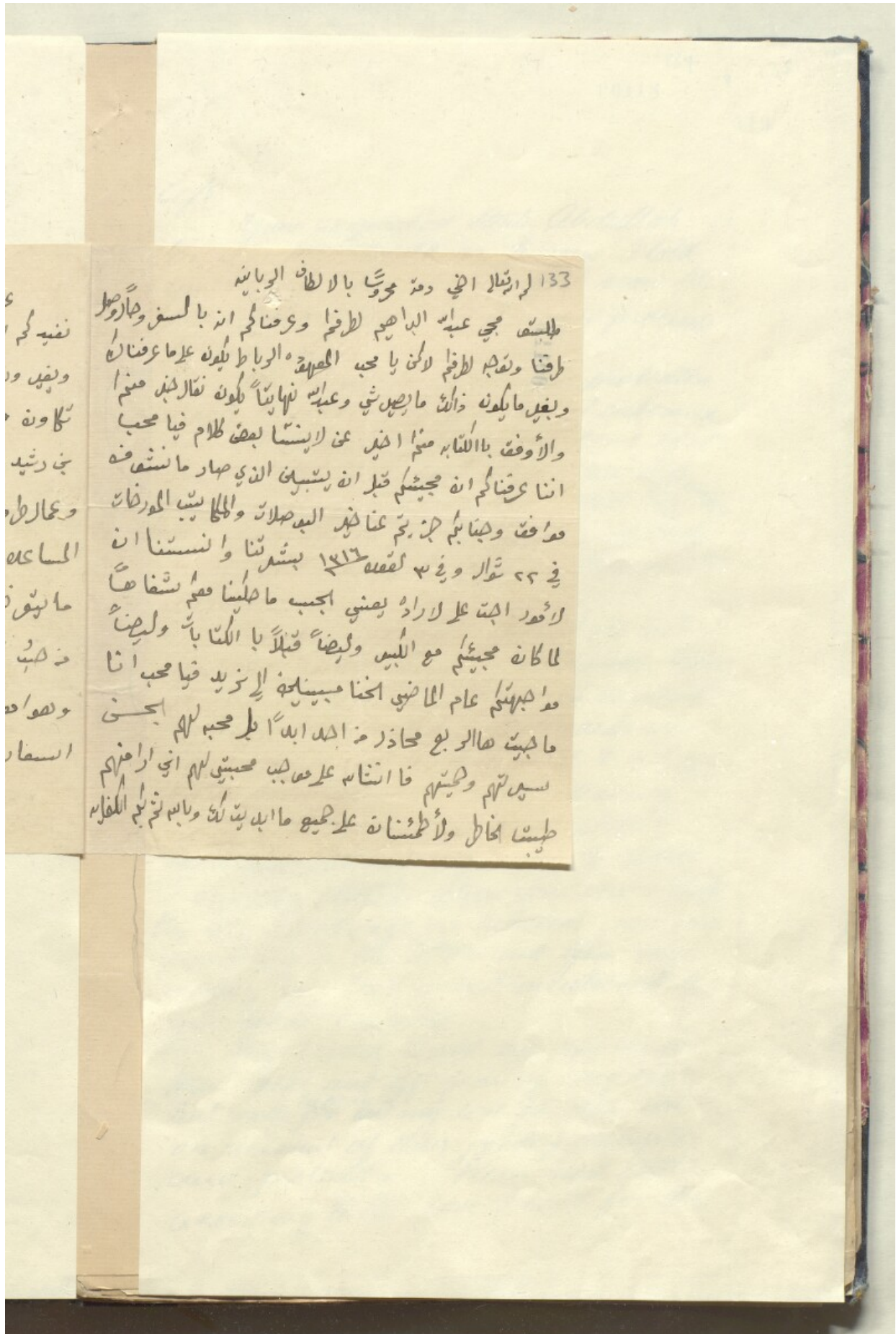


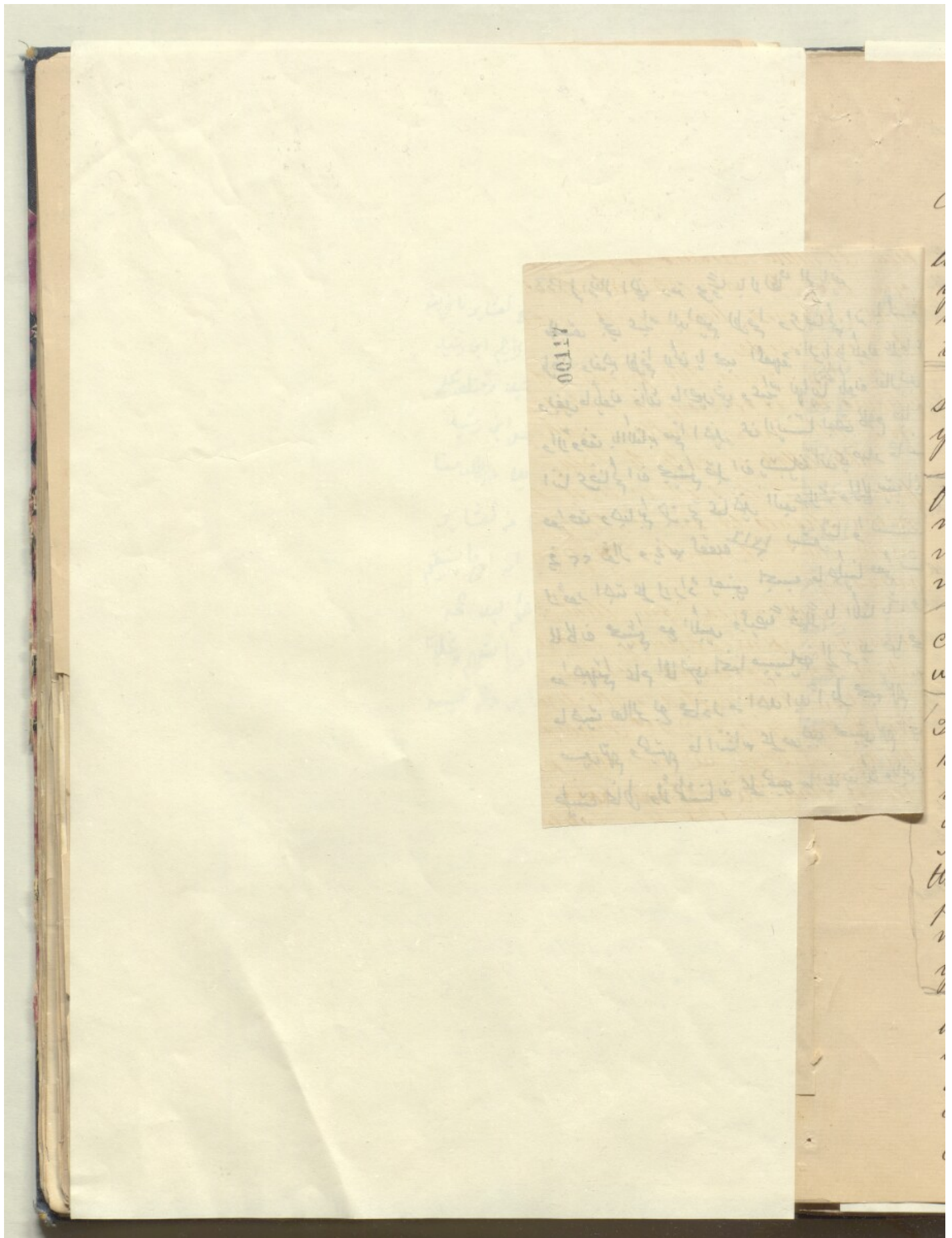




عقد
نفسه كم اخبار بن رشيد ابن رشيد الهولاء مختلفه جميعه لقار بن رشيد
ونفيسه ونه على طوارف ويزنبونه ادباني كثيره وهنه لأيلم ابن رشيد
تكاونه مع ابن محلا ورمه في غندن وطراو بن رشيد وفضل على
بن رشيد محلا رمال واقده وعلم قبله كشد وانلسر ابن رشيد
وعماله ورمه نرد عندنا مظهر الحميم والصدوق ارايد مرطلب من
المساعده واختا ما مساعده بل نفوس دعايانا في لقار
ما نفوس طونه طوارف وكباين واسم ولي كعلم انه او بايسقم
في كشد انه البيانات ما هي زينه عليه في كشم بعد عم
وهو حور عديده اجد محل وزهيب ادبائهم وغللا
اسفار واختلال وصار محفور عند لقار عالمه هيبه

هزاره
سال
سنم
ب
فه
فك
ان
ها
هنا
انا
س
مزم
المفلا







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C0118

af.

You requested that Abdullah bin Ibrahim should go to you. I told you that he was absent, but now he has arrived here and now proceeds to your side.

My Friend the promised protection should be according to what I informed you otherwise nothing will come of it.

Abdullah is only to bring me informally from you and it is best that the news should be in writing so that he may not forget any portion of the message.

I informed you that I do not consider your coming advisable before what has occurred becomes evident.

You have acted well towards me. The letters dated 22nd Shawal & 3rd Zil Kadda you gave me the pleasing news that the affairs have stood as I was wished, agreeable to what I verbally stated when you came with the big personage (i.e. Baidout and also previously in the letters and ~~from~~ my meeting you last year mentioned to you what I wanted.

My Friend I did not approach them ~~has~~ out of fear of anyone but only ~~for~~ ^{because} my love for them ~~for~~ on account of their good principles and protection. Please God that according to the love I have for them

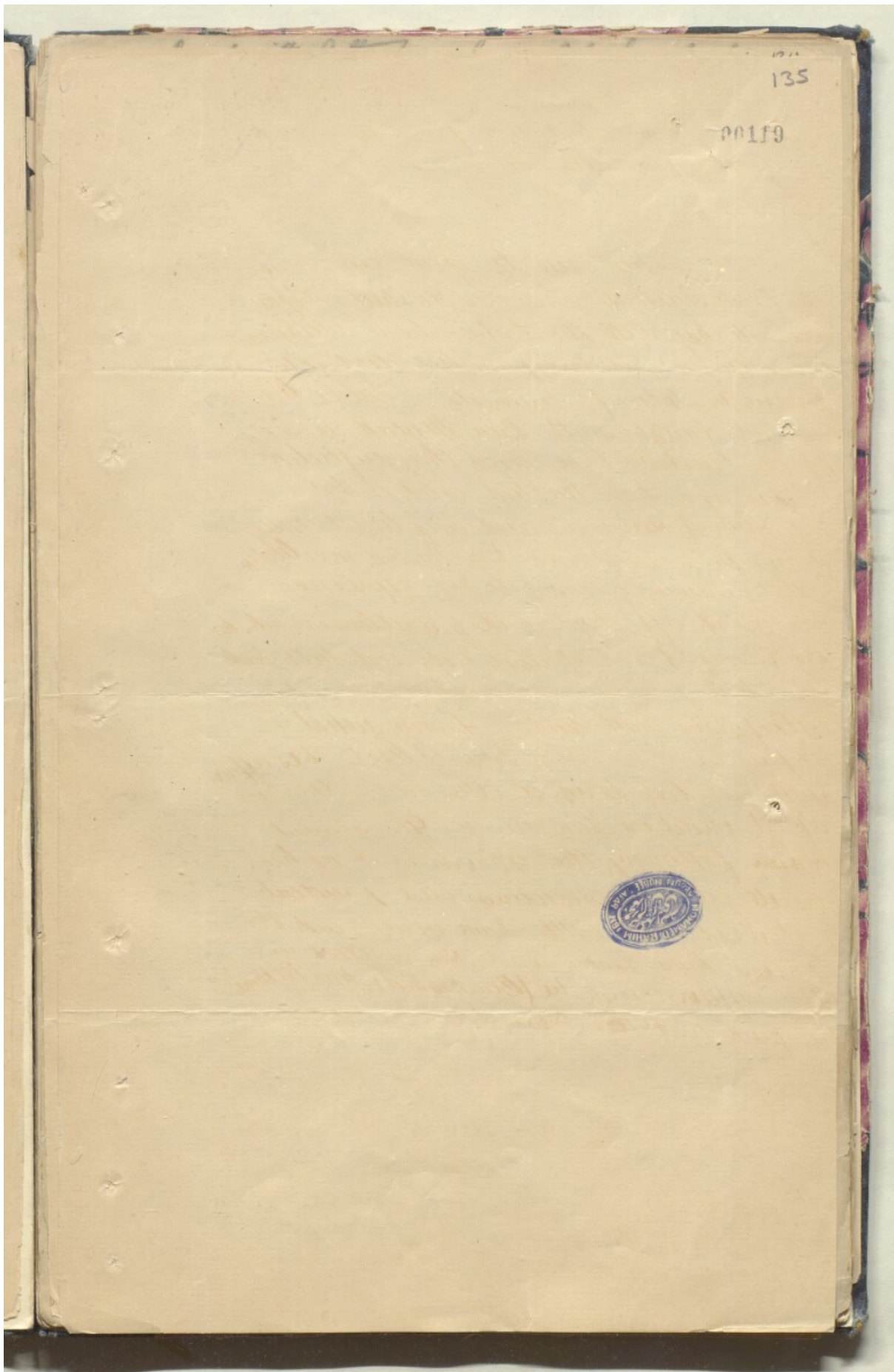


I will obtain satisfaction from them and
a reassurance for all I repeated to
you.

You asked me to give you news
of Bin Rashid. Bin Rashid's affairs
are shaky. All the tribes have withdrawn
from him & raid upon his district
plunder lots of animals. Lately Bin
Rashid fought with Bin Mislak a section
of the Qameza tribe and they inflicted
a loss upon Bin Rashid and killed a
number of his men and captured many
mares from him and Bin Rashid was beaten.
His messengers come to me expressing
his great affection and friendliness and he
asks me for help and I do not help him
but prevent my subject tribes from
interfering with him. From what is
apparent, but God knows best, his affairs
will not live long, as the news does not
reflect credit on him in his Government
Council following the government of his
uncle whose proceedings were prudent.
At Nejd their cattle have gone and the
prices have risen and ~~the~~ insecure in
their affairs and he (Bin Rashid) has become
disputed and ~~the~~ tribes have no regard
for him.

Unsigned.

RG
15/99



الملك ولي محمد بن عبد الله

حفره جناب العالي الجاه ذوي شوكة والجلال الاكرم الاسم الضا الكرم ميد اليوز وقوسل جنال

وام جواد آمين بعد السلام وسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العلية لان لم في خبر وعافية
 وانه بنسب لعل ارضه بحكم الشجر فهو رخصه ولا في كفعك ١٣١٦ له مطابق ٢٩
 ما رجع ١٩٩ له الرسول بجوفها كتاب الواصل لحكم من الصاريق مع ملفوفة مرقين
 المروحي فيهم جوابه من جهة مطلوبه واما وانه فلا يخفى سعادتهم انما قد اكدنا عليه ان يرسل
 الشخص الذي عرفناه ان يرسله الى طرفنا مثل في كفعك ١٣١٦ له مطابق ٢٩
 ١٩٩ له وصل الشخص الذي عرفناه بنفسه وهو معتمك وامينه عبد الله بن ابراهيم
 السمكه وفي حجبته كتاب منه لحكم مع ورقه بطيه مشروحا فيها ذاك الطلب وايضا
 اجابنا المتصله كيه عن ابن الرشيد نلاحظون الجميع بالعمه والعافيه وعبد الله المذكور
 حالا في طرفنا متوقف لتفصيل الطلب ليحيط بذلك شريف علمك ودمتم سالمين
 وعمر وسين وكل لام حرقه ١٣١٦ له مطابق ٢٩ ايريل ١٩٩ له
 صححه محمد بن عبد الله بن محمد

اولیٰ و ثانی

حرب المدافع

الحمد لله رب العالمين

موفق و مؤید

مدح و ثناء بنامه رسیده

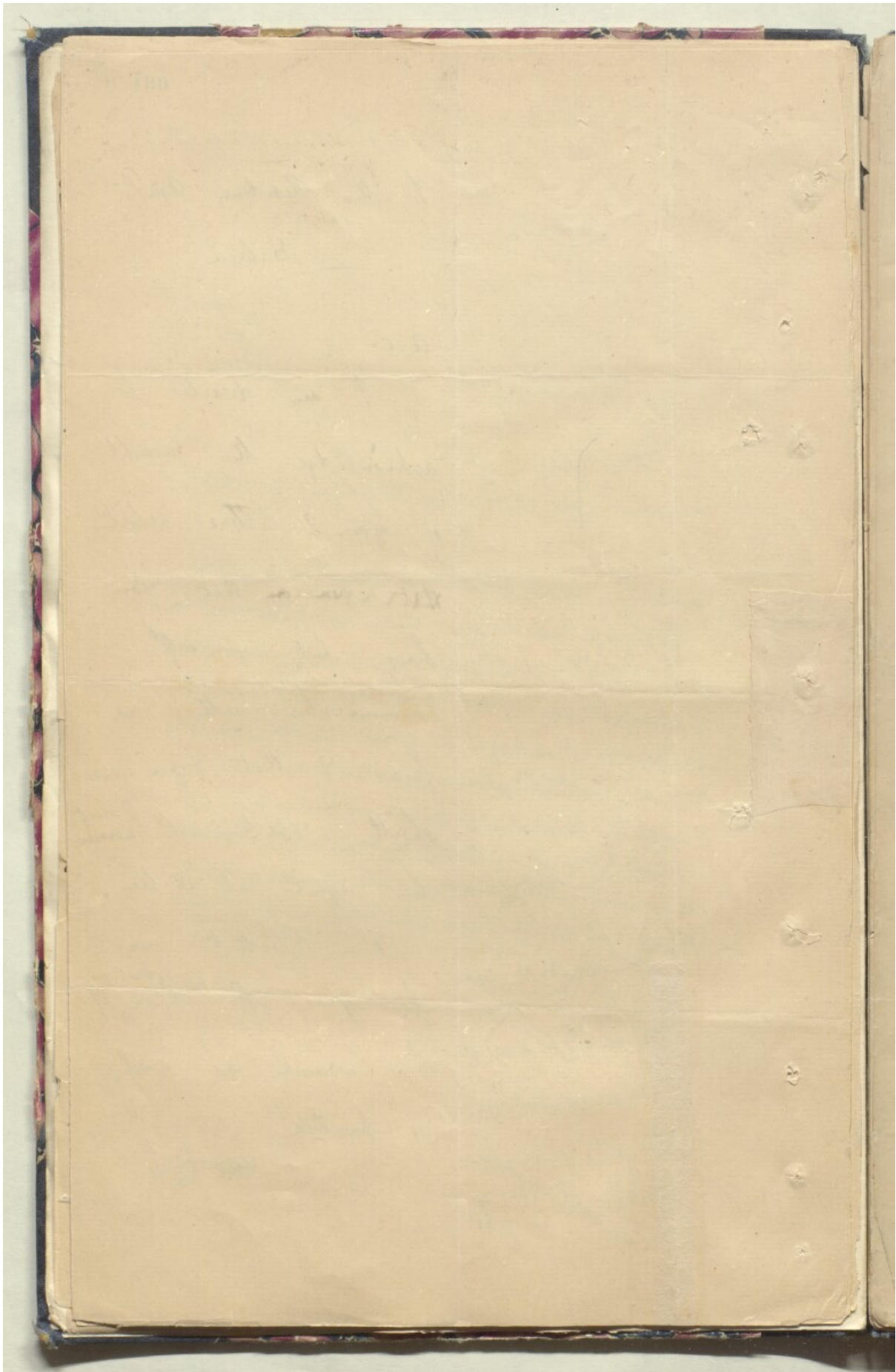
صورت لکڑی کے ساتھ

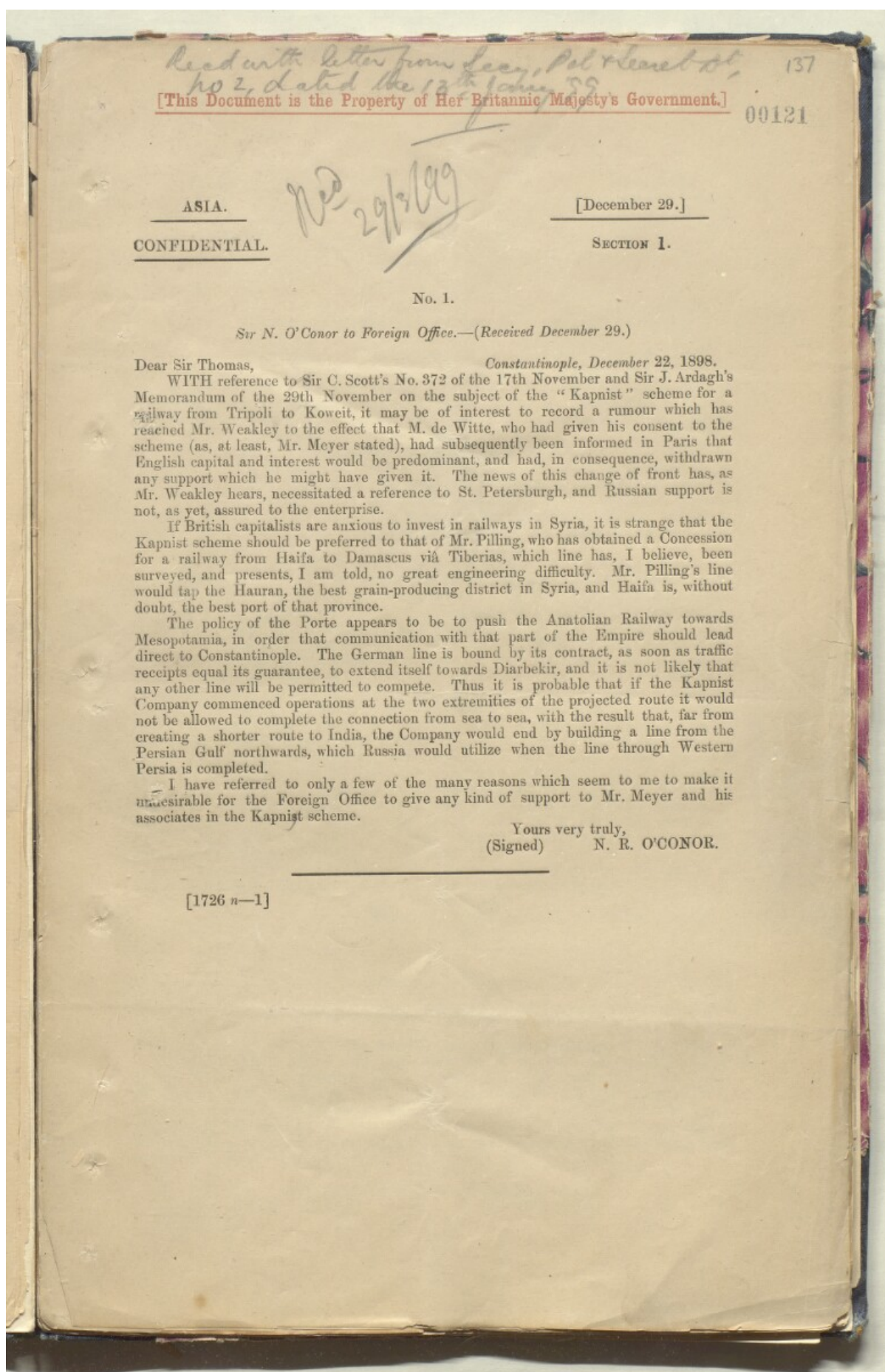
بدر زعفران و گلاب

لهذا كما ينبغي ان يكون له

۱۱۹۹
 ۱۲۱۲
 ۱۲۱۳

$\frac{4500}{2} = 2250$





ASIA.

[December 29.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Connor to Foreign Office.—(Received December 29.)

Dear Sir Thomas,

Constantinople, December 22, 1898.

WITH reference to Sir C. Scott's No. 372 of the 17th November and Sir J. Ardagh's Memorandum of the 29th November on the subject of the "Kapnist" scheme for a railway from Tripoli to Koweit, it may be of interest to record a rumour which has reached Mr. Weakley to the effect that M. de Witte, who had given his consent to the scheme (as, at least, Mr. Meyer stated), had subsequently been informed in Paris that English capital and interest would be predominant, and had, in consequence, withdrawn any support which he might have given it. The news of this change of front has, as Mr. Weakley hears, necessitated a reference to St. Petersburg, and Russian support is not, as yet, assured to the enterprise.

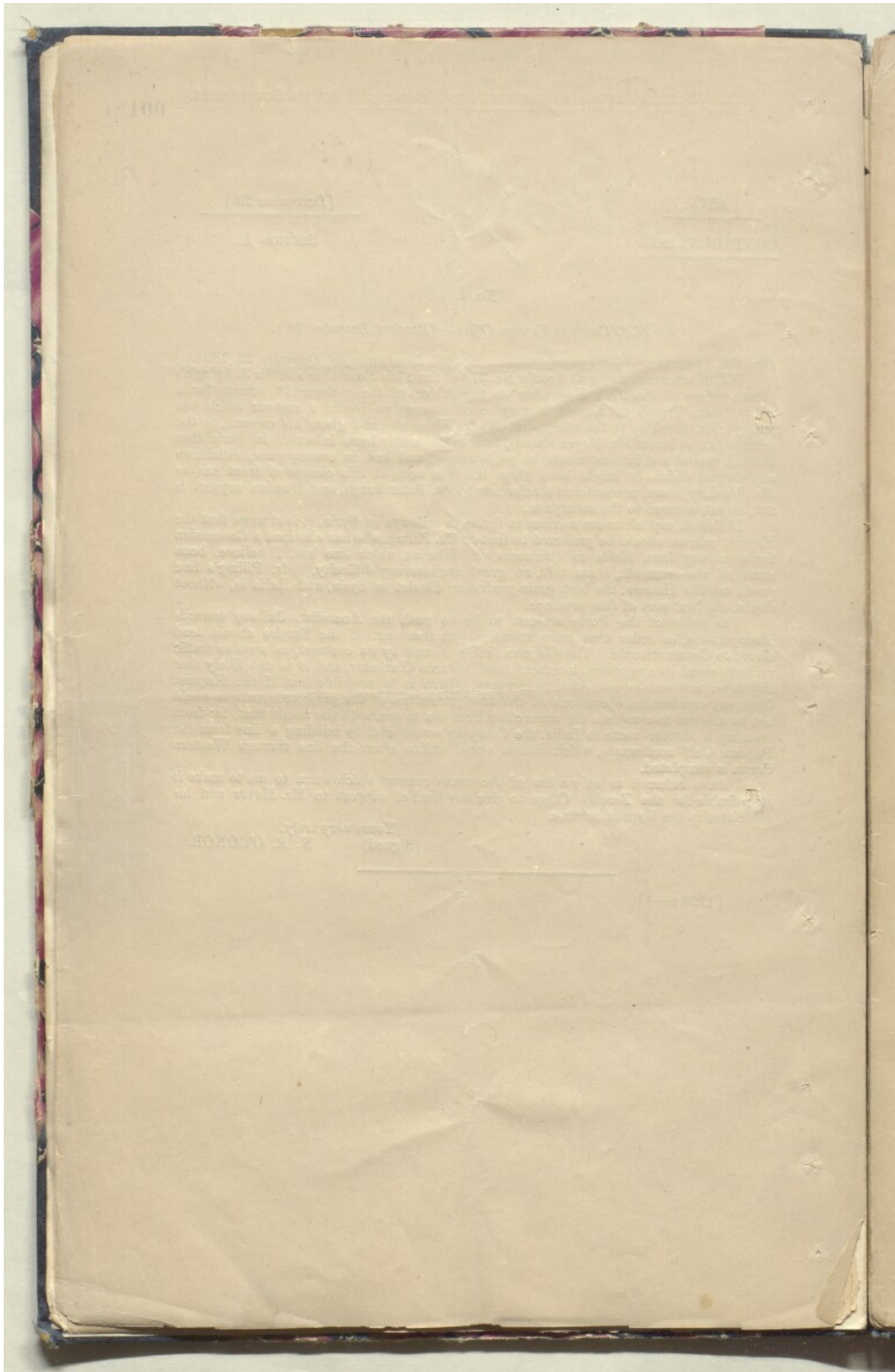
If British capitalists are anxious to invest in railways in Syria, it is strange that the Kapnist scheme should be preferred to that of Mr. Pilling, who has obtained a Concession for a railway from Haifa to Damascus via Tiberias, which line has, I believe, been surveyed, and presents, I am told, no great engineering difficulty. Mr. Pilling's line would tap the Hauran, the best grain-producing district in Syria, and Haifa is, without doubt, the best port of that province.

The policy of the Porte appears to be to push the Anatolian Railway towards Mesopotamia, in order that communication with that part of the Empire should lead direct to Constantinople. The German line is bound by its contract, as soon as traffic receipts equal its guarantee, to extend itself towards Diarbekir, and it is not likely that any other line will be permitted to compete. Thus it is probable that if the Kapnist Company commenced operations at the two extremities of the projected route it would not be allowed to complete the connection from sea to sea, with the result that, far from creating a shorter route to India, the Company would end by building a line from the Persian Gulf northwards, which Russia would utilize when the line through Western Persia is completed.

I have referred to only a few of the many reasons which seem to me to make it undesirable for the Foreign Office to give any kind of support to Mr. Meyer and his associates in the Kapnist scheme.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

[1726 n-1]





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00122

ASIA.

[January 4.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Messrs. Williams, Meyers, and Co. to Foreign Office.—(Received January 4.)

6, Tokenhouse Yard, and Stock Exchange, London,
January 4, 1899.

Dear Sir,

REFERRING to the conversation which our Mr. Meyers had the honour to have with you yesterday, we are pleased to forward you Mr. Pears' letter *re* Iradé*, and should feel obliged if you would kindly return it to us after having placed it before Lord Salisbury for perusal.

With regard to the point touched by you as to whether, in the event of his Concession being obtained, our contract with Count Kapnist would be found to be sufficiently binding to safeguard us against any attempt that might be made to transfer the Concession to other parties not approved of by Her Majesty's Government or ourselves, we take the liberty to quote from a confidential Report handed to us a few ago, on his return from Constantinople, by a gentleman in our office, who had been watching our interests out there. He says:—

"Mr. Pears sent word to us asking how matters were progressing, and on our paying him a visit, he informed us that Sir Nicholas O'Connor had called on him soon after Mr. Meyers' departure to make inquiries about our matter, and that since he had twice sent Mr. Weakley, the Embassy's Commercial Attaché, on the same mission. Pears told us that Sir Nicholas was particularly concerned to know whether, in the case of this Concession being granted by the Sultan to Count Kapnist, our contract with the latter was binding enough to prevent him from transferring the Concession to any body not suitable to us. We meant to set his Excellency's mind at rest on that point, and, after an interview with Count Kapnist, got him to write a letter to E. Rechnitzer, declaring himself to be acting in this matter merely as E. Rechnitzer's and his financial group's agent, and binding himself to have E. Rechnitzer's name inserted in the Convention, besides his own, as part concessionnaire. This letter was signed by Count Kapnist at Mr. Pears' office, in the latter's presence, and officially acknowledged receipt of by E. Rechnitzer in a return letter to the Count. Furthermore, Count Kapnist was made to write a letter to Mahmoud Djellalidin Pasha, the Minister of Public Works, after the latter had been communicated with, practically repeating what had been stated in the Count's letter to E. Rechnitzer, and duly testified copies of these letters having been prepared by Mr. Pears, they were taken up to the Embassy and handed to Sir Nicholas O'Connor."

We may add that we have known Mr. Rechnitzer for a long time, and that he is the gentleman who originally brought this Concession business to us.

We have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAMS, MEYERS, AND CO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Mr. E. Pears to Messrs. Williams, Meyers, and Co.

Dear Sirs,

10, Rue Mertebany, Constantinople, December 27, 1898.

HEREWITH I inclose copy, certified by me, of the letter from the Ministry of Public Works. I congratulate you on obtaining it. I confess, as I told your Mr. Meyers when he was here, that I doubted very much whether your representatives would have sufficient influence to obtain the document, and I say even that I am surprised at their success. At the same time, as I informed your Mr. Meyers, such a document does not give any legal right to obtain the Concession which has been asked for in Count Kapnist's name.

[1706 b-1]

* Also his certified copy of the Iradé (for perusal and return).



2

The Imperial Iradé invites Count Kapnist to attend at the Ministry to establish the bases of the Concession that he asks for, and I think it may be fairly presumed that in granting such an Iradé there is no objection in principle to the Concession asked for, the particulars of which are more fully described in the Petition of Count Kapnist, and that, if the bases can be agreed upon, a definite Concession for the line may reasonably be expected to be forthcoming.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) EDWIN PEARS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

The Minister of Public Works to Count Kapnist.

M. le Comte Kapnist, *Constantinople, le 12 (24) Décembre, 1898.*
VOUS êtes invité par Iradé Impérial à vous présenter à ce Ministère à l'effet d'établir les bases de la Concession que vous sollicitez du Gouvernement Impérial.

Par ordre du Ministre :
Le Directeur du Bureau des Archives et
d'Expédition du Ministère,
(Signé) RHEUTER.

(Seal of the Minister of Public Works.)

I certify the above to be a true copy of the original in my possession.
(Signed) EDWIN PEARS, *Barrister-at-Law.*

Constantinople, December 27, 1898.



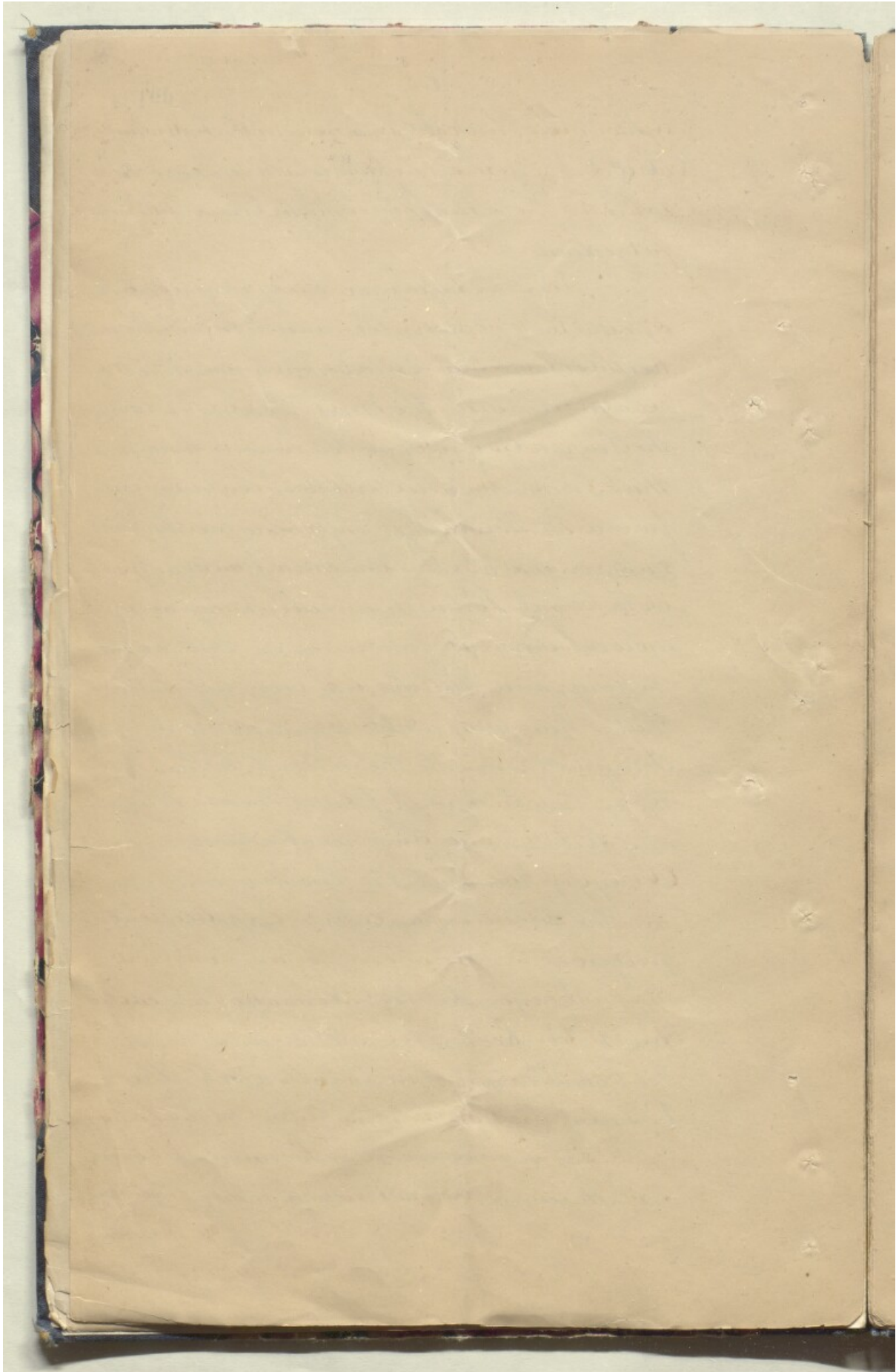
Asia
Confidential No. 2. ¹²³ January 16th 1899
Section 1. 00124
Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury
(No. 7) (Received January 16th)
St. Petersburg, January 10th 1899.

My Lord,

With reference to my despatch No. 372 of the 17th November and to Count Kapnist's negotiations for a concession to construct a railway between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, I have the honour to report that I received a letter about ten days ago from a M. Rechnitzer, informing me that he had arrived at St. Petersburg, in company with Count Kapnist, in order to try and interest Russian financiers in this undertaking; and that having been informed that I had been made acquainted by the Foreign Office with the interest taken by the eminent British firm of Messrs. Meyers and Williams in these negotiations, he would be happy to call at the Embassy and give me the latest information respecting their progress.

I requested Mr. Hardinge to reply for me to M. Rechnitzer's letter, and to see that gentleman when he called at the Embassy.

I now inclose a Memorandum which Mr. Hardinge has been good enough to draw up





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00125

up for me of his conversation with M. Reckmitzer, and of the interesting information which he obtained from him concerning Count Kapnist's project.

I am naturally unable to express an opinion as to how far the information given by this gentleman, who is unknown to me, can be regarded as entirely reliable; but I believe he is quite correct in surmising that Count Kapnist will not secure much financial support for his scheme in this country, and I am inclined to doubt his obtaining much official encouragement here to pursue it.

I have, etc.
Sof. Charles S. Scott.

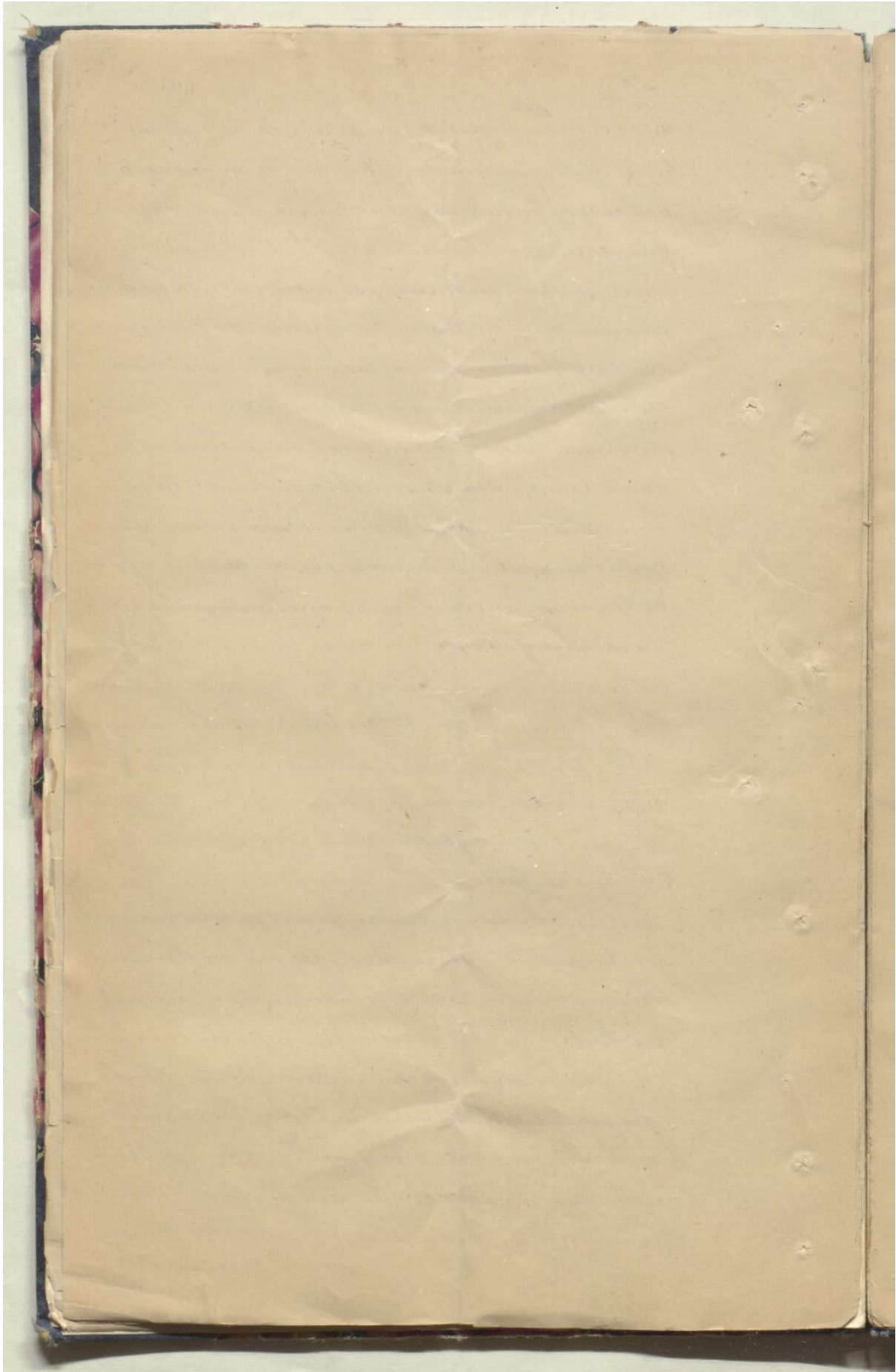
Inclosure in No. 2.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

In accordance with your Excellency's instructions I arranged for an interview this morning with M. Reckmitzer, who called at the Embassy to see me.

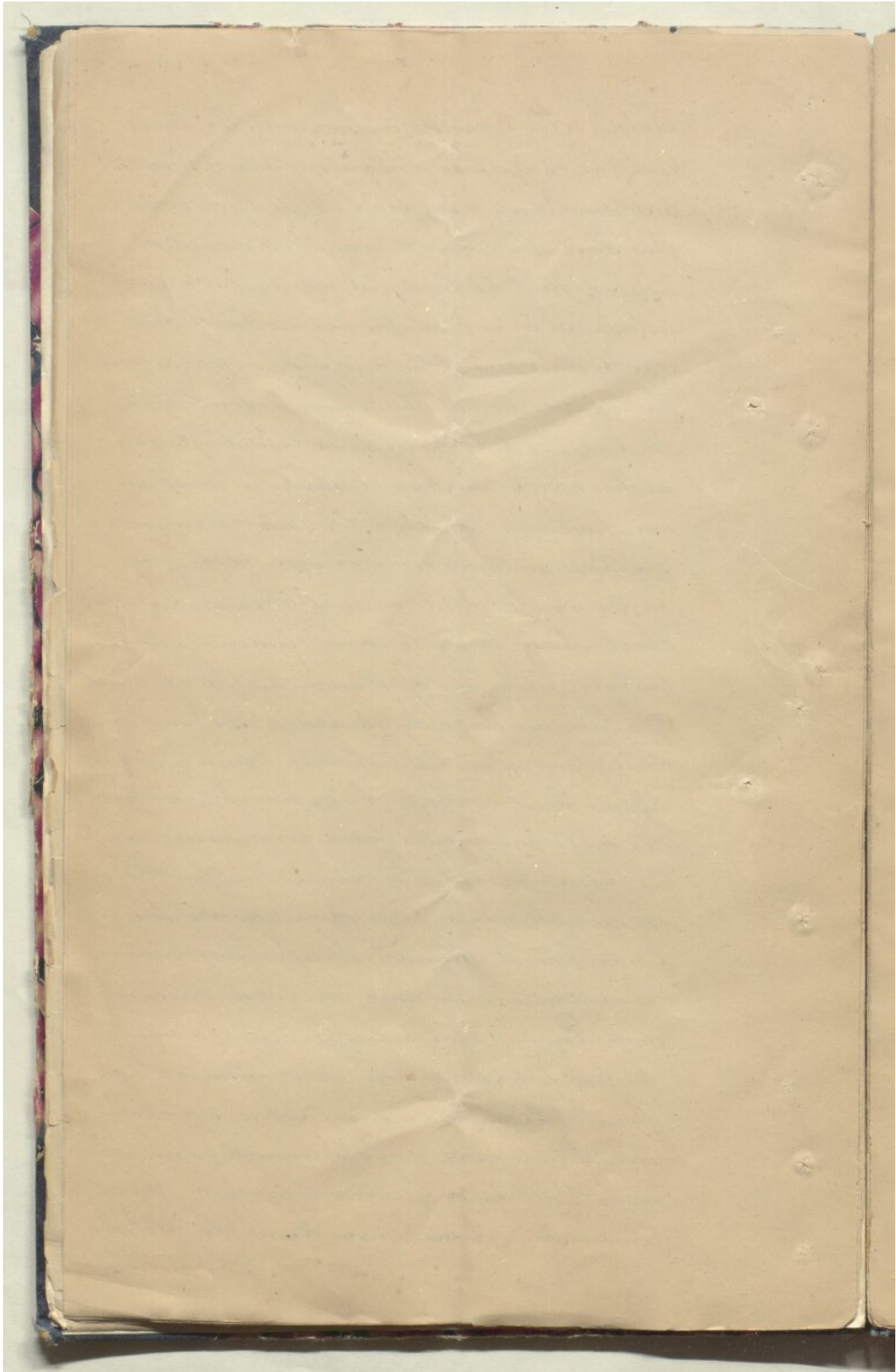
In reply to my inquiry as to the progress at Constantinople of the negotiations to obtain a concession in the name of Count Kapnist for the construction of a railway between





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between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, he confirmed the information that the Sultan's *Irade* had been already obtained, but that the *Firman* was still awaited. He added that he had just received a telegram informing him that the Minister of Public Works had given the *mazbata* or order for the preparation of the requisite convention. He explained to me at some length that, although the Russian Embassy at Constantinople were pressing the Porte for this concession, the Russian Ambassador was taking no steps in the matter, M. Maximof, Dragoman of the Embassy, being the chief element of activity in favour of the scheme. He said that the Russian Embassy regarded the proposed main line as an English line, being quite aware that it would be impossible to raise the necessary funds from private sources in Russia in order to secure half the representation on the Board as stipulated for by Count *Shapnist*. They would, however, be satisfied if the line were constructed with English capital and under English control, provided that satisfaction was given to Russian amour-propre by a very small percentage of Russian representation upon the Board of Directors, and that compensation was given them by the exclusively



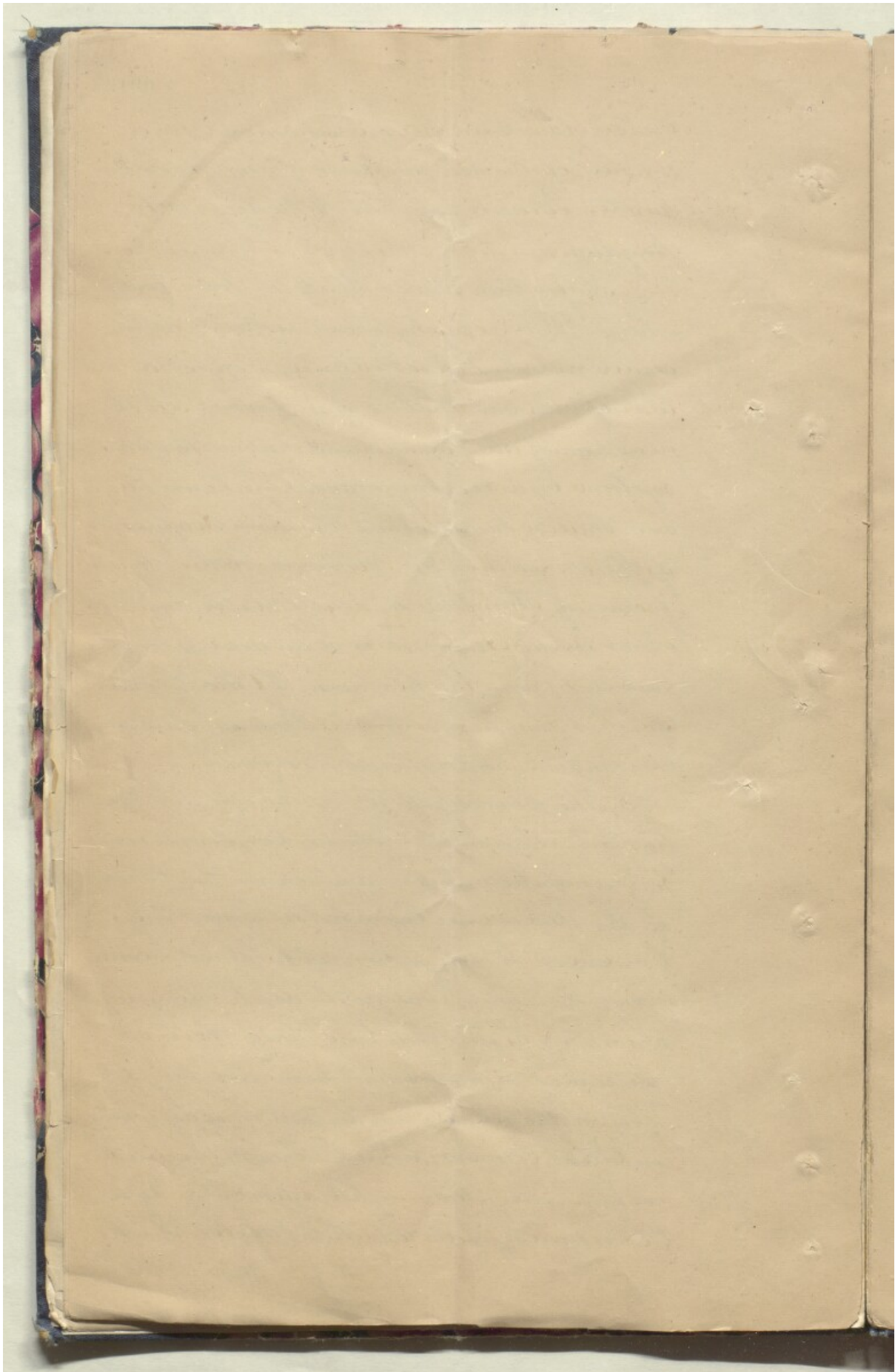
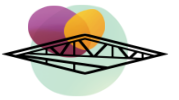


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00127

exclusively Russian management and control of the branch line from Hamitin on the Persian frontier to Nedjef via Bagdad.

He further stated that M. Tatistcheff, whose influence is very great with M. Witte and General Kouropiatkine, is opposed to the scheme, but that he is in favour of the junction of the Russian and Indian Railway systems by a railway across Afghanistan, and that he had secured the moral support of the "Times" and the "Morning Post" in favour of this project. M. de Witte, on the other hand, was said to be an advocate of a railway from the Caspian to the Persian Gulf, as soon as the Russo-Persian Railway Convention had expired in 1900.

The Concession for which application has been made is to include Concessions for navigation and irrigation in the basins of the Tigris and Euphrates, and the Concession for irrigation, if obtained, would prove their most valuable asset since, according to Turkish law, half the land reclaimed to cultivation becomes the freehold of the concessionnaires. On my pointing out that Messrs. Lynch already enjoyed certain navigation rights upon the Tigris, M. Rechnitzer stated that Messrs. Lynch's Convention





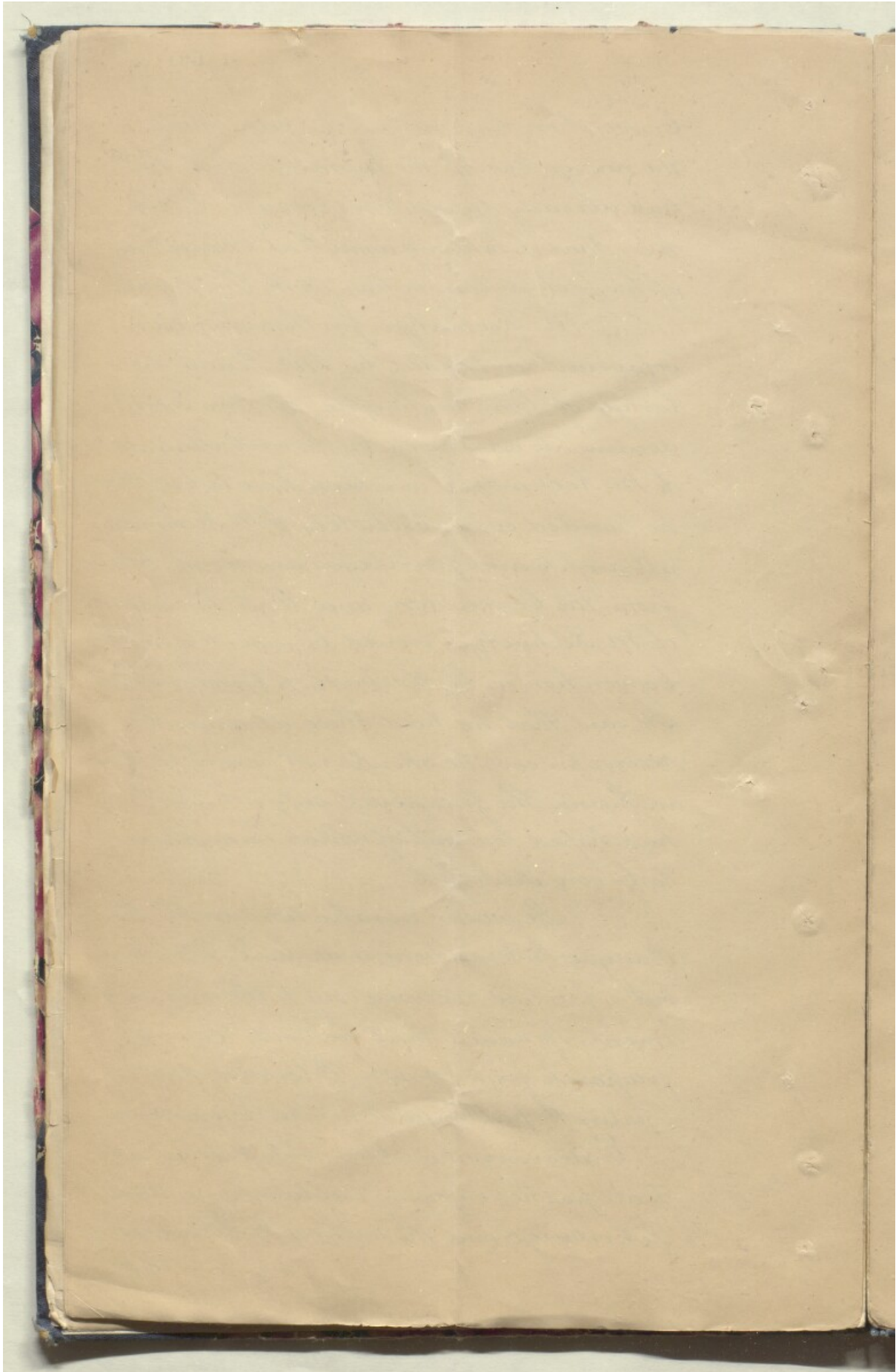
60123¹⁴³

Convention had originally been solely for the navigation of the Euphrates, but that it had already lapsed ten years ago. I told him that I had my doubts as to correctness of his facts in connection with this point.

M. Rechnitzer further showed me copies authenticated by Mr Pears, a lawyer of Constantinople, of two secret documents addressed by Count Kapnist to M. Rechnitzer, in which he stated that he handed over absolutely to M. Rechnitzer all rights and privileges accruing to him from the concession, and that the name of M. Rechnitzer would be inserted in the convention with the Turkish Government. He said that he held these documents in reserve in case he should not be able to obtain in Russia the financial support that he had hoped for, but of which he appeared to be very doubtful.

He was in negotiation with the Banque Internationale de Saint-Petersbourg, but so far had received very little encouragement. He added that he had received proposals from Messrs. Bleichröder of Berlin to participate in the concession.

Endeavours had been made to conciliate to all parties enjoying influence in St. Petersburg, and the favours of M. Pobedonostzeff had





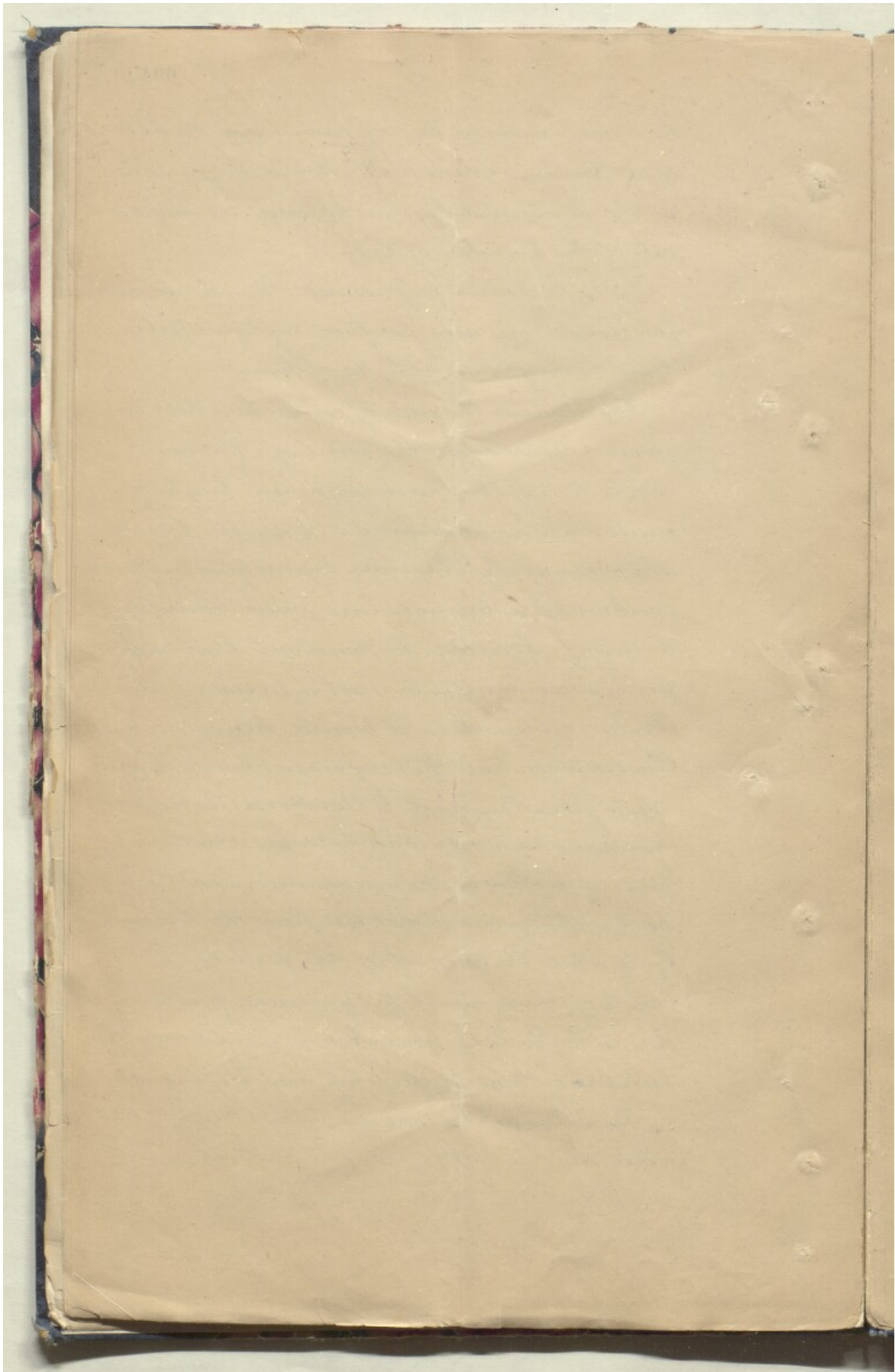
144
00129
had been secured by the promise of the building of a Russian Church at Korna, the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates, and the supposed site of the Garden of Eden.

M. Recknitzer promised to give me, in a few days' time, any further information that he might be able to obtain.

As regards the idea of compensation being given to Russia, in the event of the construction of this railway as an English undertaking assuming a tangible form by the exclusively Russian management and control of a branch line from Hamitkin to Nedjef, I venture to point out that such a concession would be most injurious to British interests as it would place under Russian control the very important trade route from Bagdad to Northern Persia via Kermanshah, over which road, I believe, three-quarters of the merchandise carried to be British goods imported from the Persian Gulf, while the control of the principal route of the annual pilgrimage from Persia to Kerbela and Nedjef would greatly enhance Russian prestige and influence in Persia and elsewhere.

December 30th, 1898.

C. H.





145

00150

Received with letter from Secretary, Poll.
& Secret Dept^{ts}, No. 1, dated the 6th Jan'y 1899.
Enclosures in F. O. covering letter of
29th December 1898.

Messrs. Williams Meyers & Co. to Foreign Office.

6 Token house yard.
Stock Exchange, E. C.
27th December 1898.

Sir,

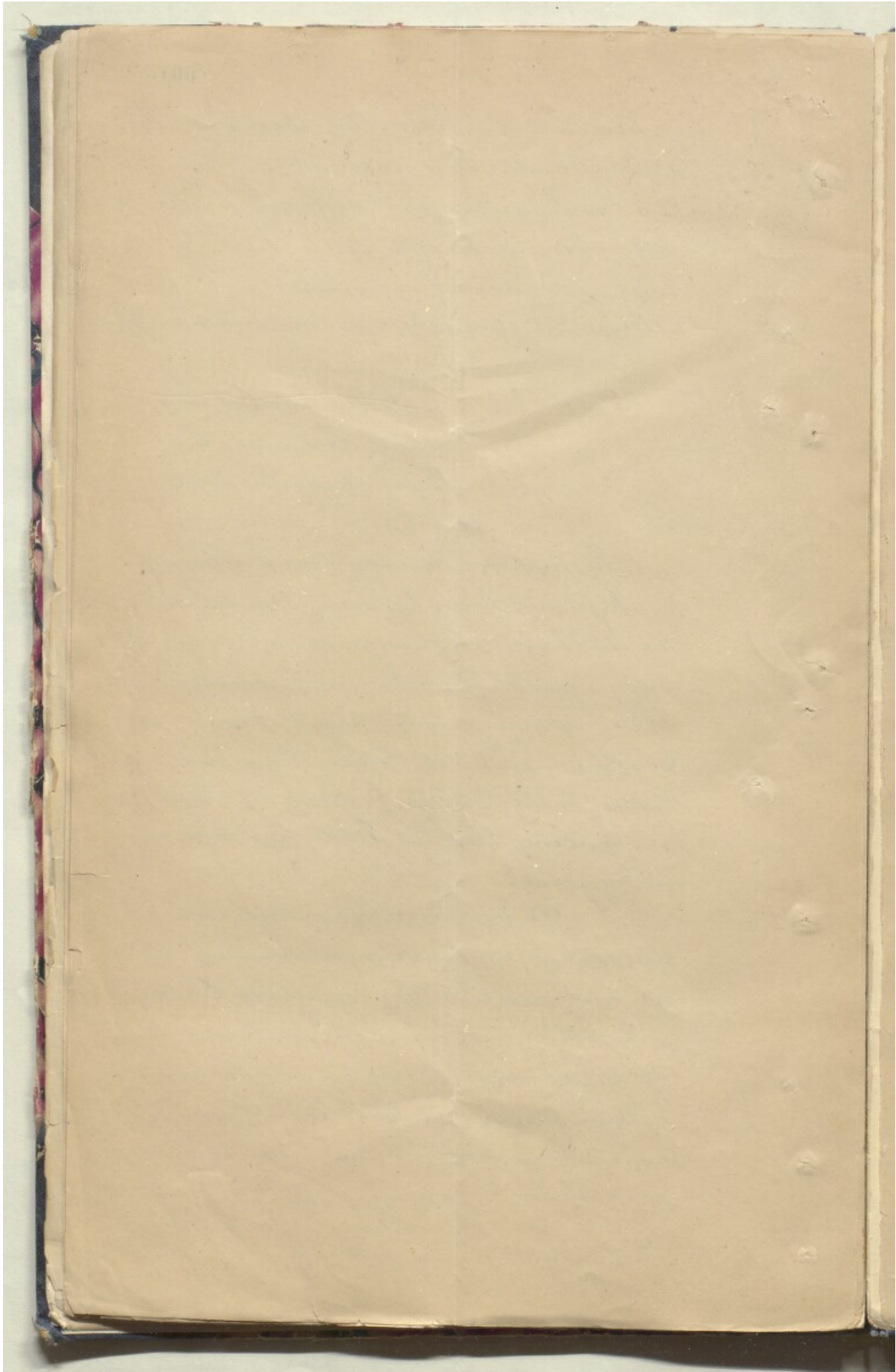
Re: proposed railway Tripoli-Koweit.
Referring to our letter on this subject of
the 25th October last, we have the honour to
inform you that we have just received a
cable message from our legal adviser in
Constantinople, M^r Edwin Pears, who is well
known to the British Embassy in that city,
announcing that the *Tradi* has been issued
in the form^t.

We hold ourselves entirely at your
disposal for any further information that
you may desire, either by personal interview
or by letter, and one of our partners will be
glad if you wish it to do himself the honour of
calling upon you at the Foreign Office at any
hour and on any day that may suit your
convenience.

We have, etc.
Jof. Williams Meyers & Co.

* Stimulated by our M^r Meyers when in
Constantinople.

Telegram





Telegram to Sir N. O'Connor, dated 29th
December 1898.

No. 240.

Kapnist concession. We hear from
Williams Meyer & Company that Trade
has been issued. Is this true?

Enclosure in F.O. covering letter of
31st December 1898.

No. 234. Telegram from Sir N. O'Connor of 30th Decr 1898.

Your Telegram No. 240. Trade was
issued on December 24th. I am informed
confidentially that provisions guarantee
British ownership in favour of W. Meyer &
Co. Secrecy is maintained, trade has not
been shown to me and I am sceptical as
to British hold over scheme and would like
arrangement to be submitted to H. M. Govt.
by the firm who have obtained a letter of
introduction.

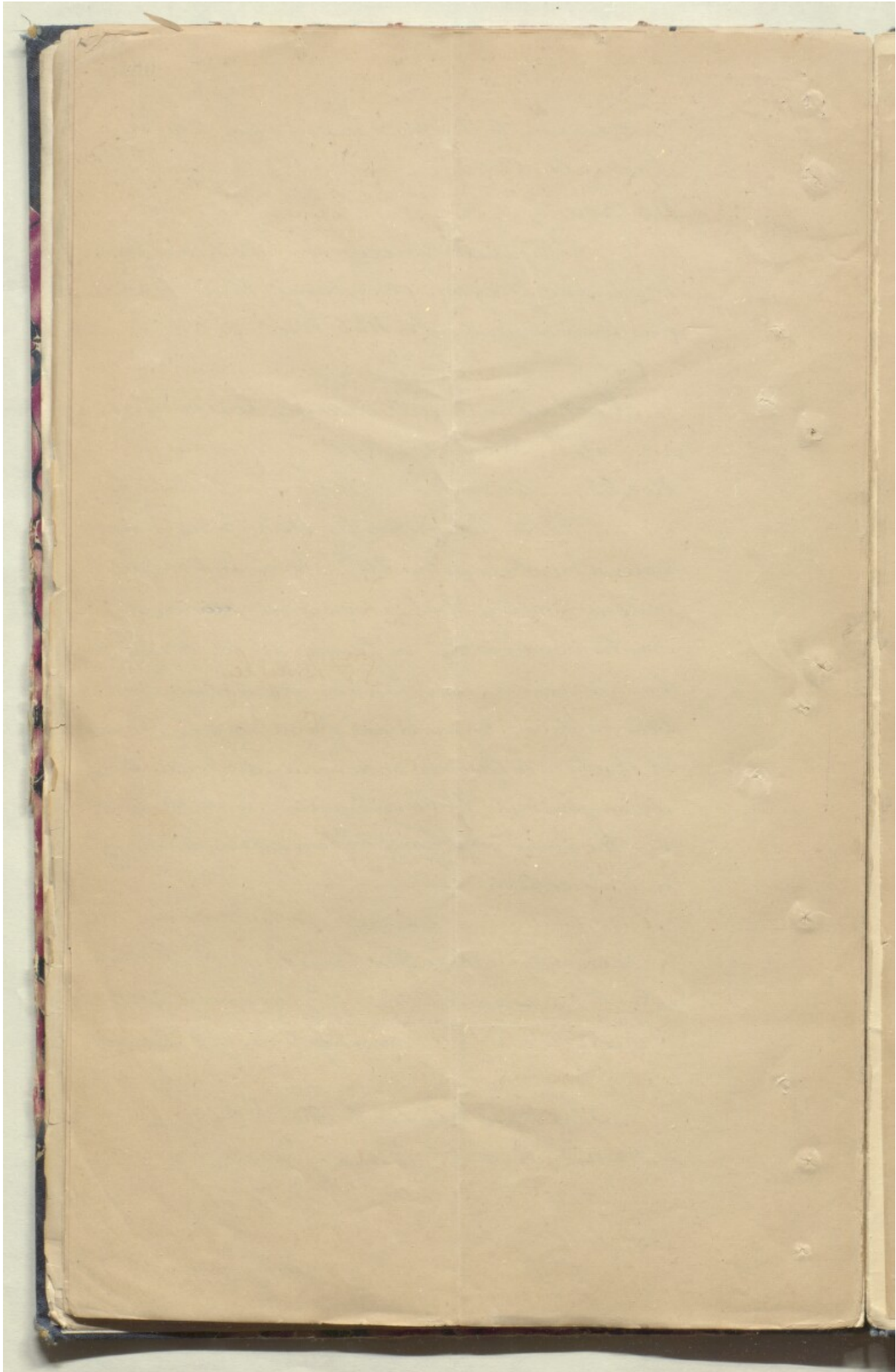
Received with letter from Secy. Poll. & Secret
Dept. No. 4 dated the 27th January 1899.

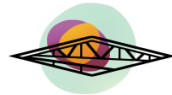
Enclosure in F.O. covering letter of 7th Jan. 1899.

Sir N. R. O'Connor to the F.O.
Dated Pera, 6th January 1899.

No. 1

Telegraphic





147
00132

Telegraphic.

My telegram No. 234. I am informed
that Kaim's Trade merely authorises
Minister of Public Works to examine proposal.

Confidential No. 407 E.A.

A copy of the foregoing correspondence is
forwarded confidentially to the Political
Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information,
in continuation of the endorsement from the
Government of India in the Foreign Depart-
ment, No. 114 E.A. dated the 24th January 1899.

By order, etc,

S F Bayley

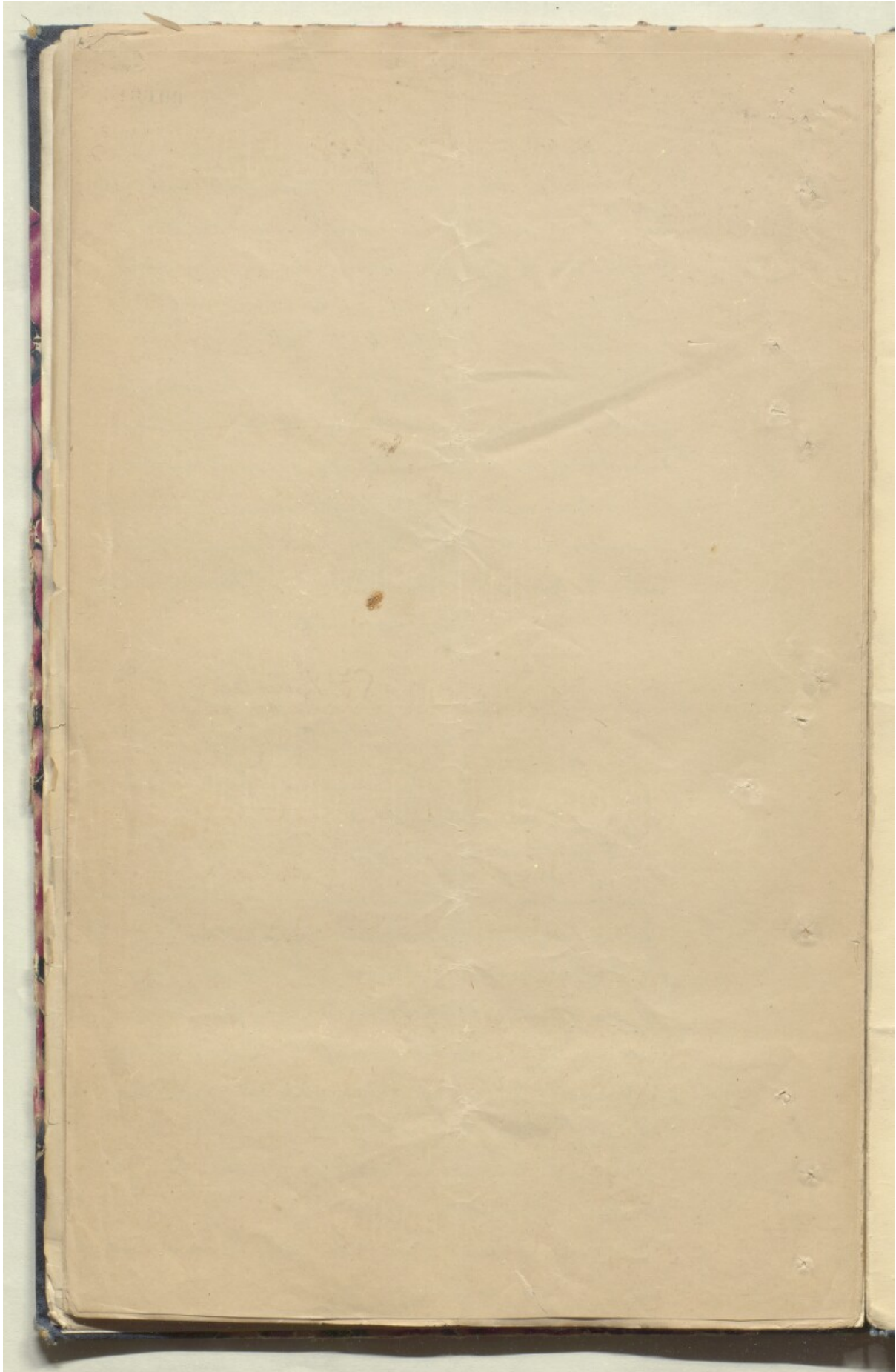
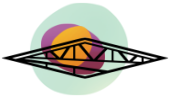
Assistant Secretary to the
Government of India.

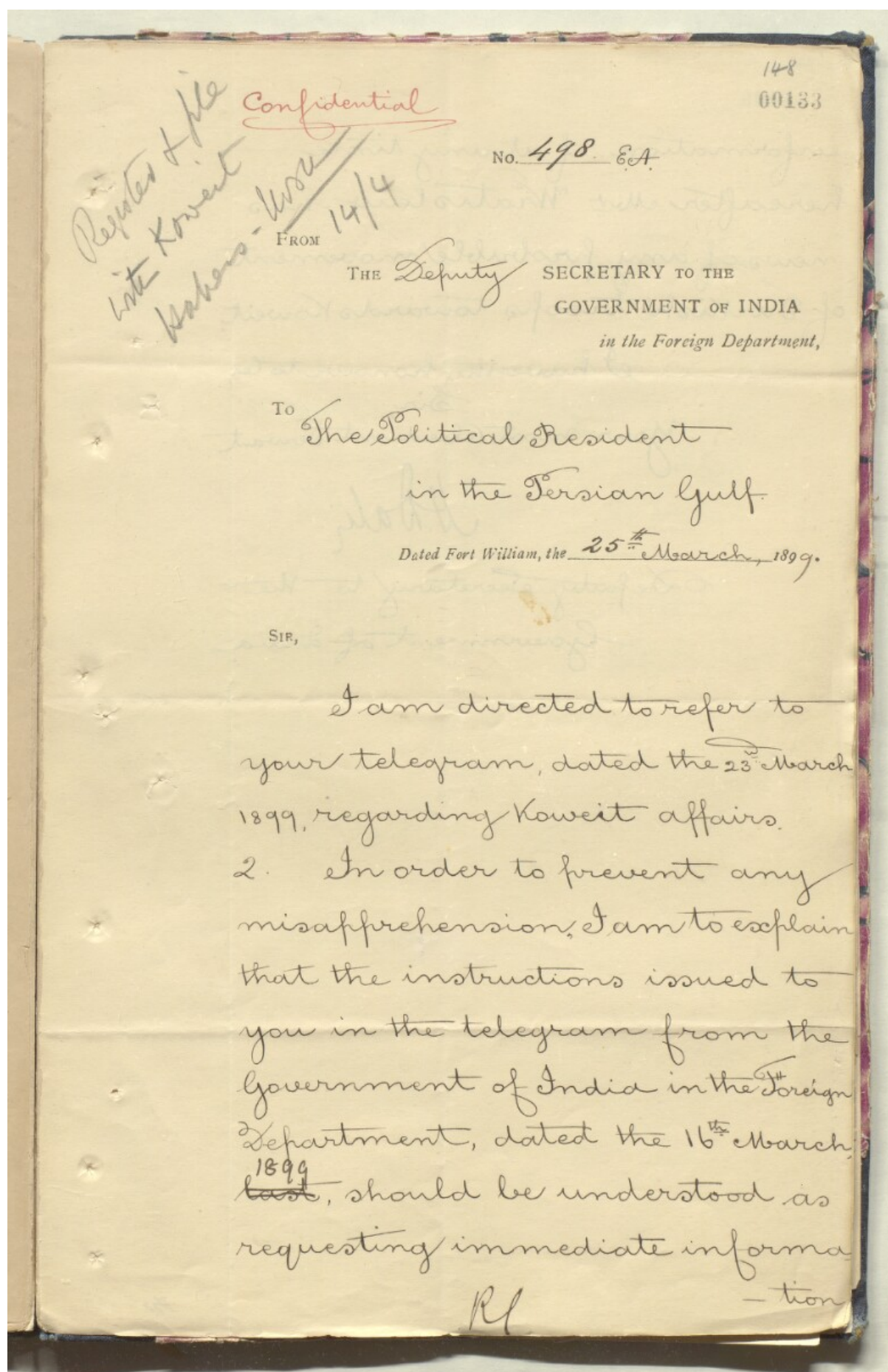
Foreign Department, 3
Fort William, 3
The 14th March 1899. 3

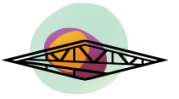
Asia Confidential Prints, section 1, dated the
29th December 1898, and 4th and 16th Jan'y 1899.
From Messrs. Williams Meyers & Co. to the
Foreign Office, dated the 27th December 1898.
Telegram to Sir N.R. O'Connor, No. 240, dated
the 29th December 1898.

Telegram from Sir N.R. O'Connor No. 234, dated
the 30th December 1898.

Telegram from Sir N.R. O'Connor, No. 1 dated
the 6th January 1899.





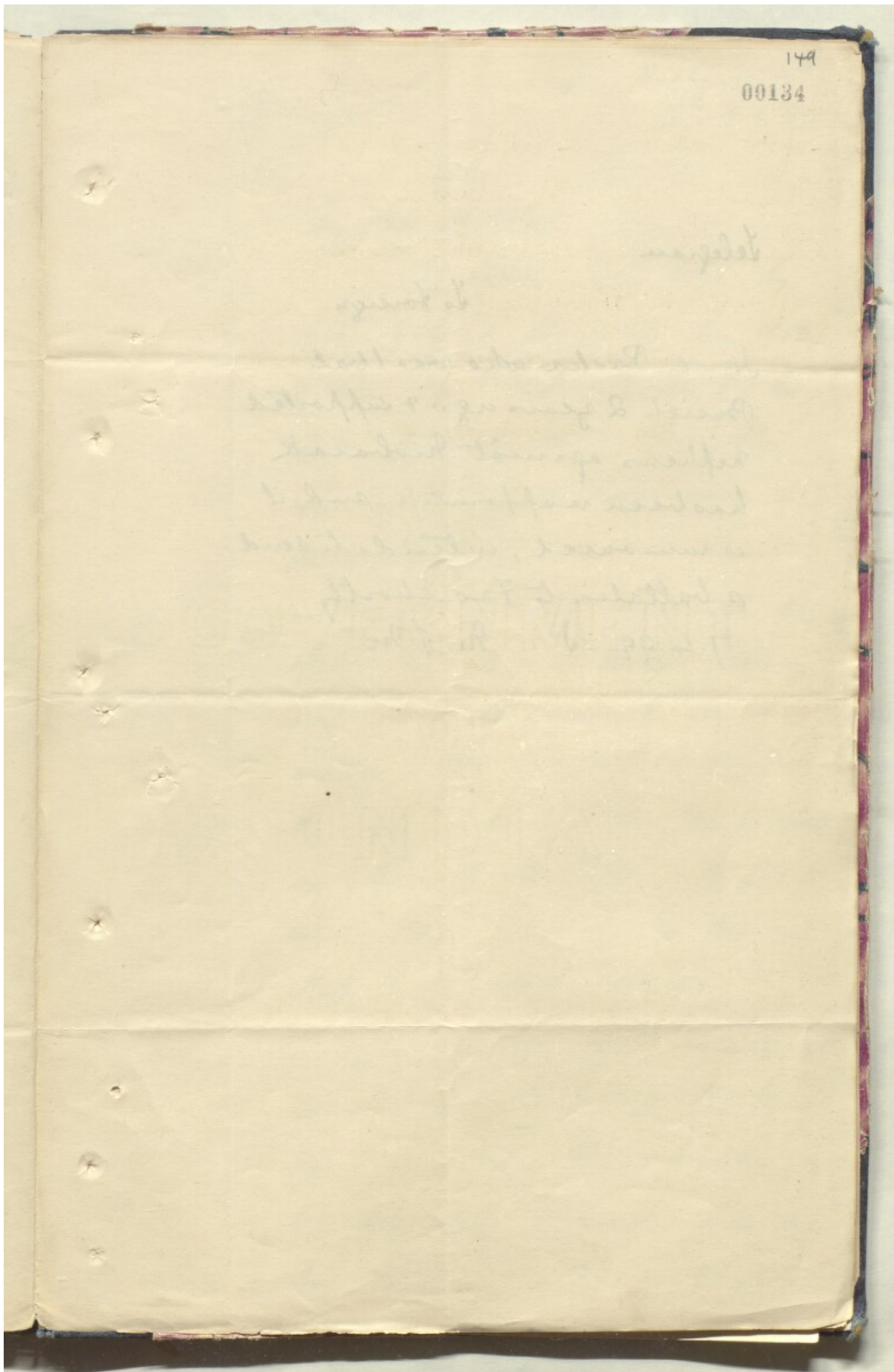
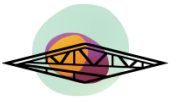


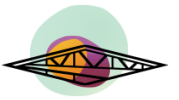
information if at any time —
hereafter Mr. Wratisslaw has
news of any probable movement
of Turkish troops towards Koweit.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant

A. Daly.

Deputy Secretary to the
Government of India.





Telegram

To Foreign

Hamdi Pasha who was Wali
Buseh 2 years ago & supported
nephews against Moarak
has been reappointed and, it
is rumoured, intends to send
a battalion to Fas shortly
17.4.99. (J^d) M. J. M.



Office. *Copy*

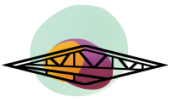
Bushire¹⁵⁰ 00135
18th April 1899

My dear Whatislaw

I received your letter by last mail & heard also from McDougal & from the clerk at Fao to the effect that it is supposed the appointment of Hamdi Pasha means some attack being soon made on Koweit.

There are persistent rumours to the effect that a considerable increase will soon be made to the Fao garrison. This would be serious as the date-gardens of the Koweit Sheikh are there, & the Pasha will probably seize them even if he does not attack Koweit itself at once.

Anyhow Fao is much nearer Koweit than Bushire is, & I have thought it safer to send the information on to you; but I would like something definite, & will await your



further reports with anxiety. Govt
wants the earliest possible news of
any moves likely to result in an
attack on Koweit, & you had better
report to the Ambassador as well as
informing me immediately you are
certain that any such movement
is really contemplated.

Yours sincerely
(SD) M. J. Meade.

P.S. I am glad to hear that the
Pasha is well disposed to the English,
& you may perhaps be able to
gain such a personal influence
over him as will be beneficial
to our interests. The longer we
can keep the K. question from
becoming acute the better.



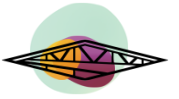
Secret To Sheikh Mubarak of Kuwait.

151
00136

4/c.

I was glad to receive a message fr you
through Asghar M. ^{of India} Kalseen Suffer.
H.E. The Viceroy has countersigned
the agreement we concluded together
when I visited Kuwait, & I send herewith
one copy for you -

I duly represented the difficulty
you are in about fr Gardens
near Fas, & the Govt have now
authorised me to hold out a
hope to you, & to your Brothers
that the Great Govt will do
^{what} ~~it~~ it can to protect you & your
brothers in the matter of your estates



here too - If these states are therefore
attached please inform me -

I am also authorised to hand over
a sum of Rs 15,000/- to you, &
will be glad to send it in any way
most convenient to yourself -

It is desirable at present to keep
these matters secret: but I will be
glad to hear from time to time
of your welfare if you care.

Communicate with me without its being
known - Rest assured that you have
the favour of the Great God: and
be perfectly loyal to the engagement
you have entered into - While you are
you may depend on the favour of the



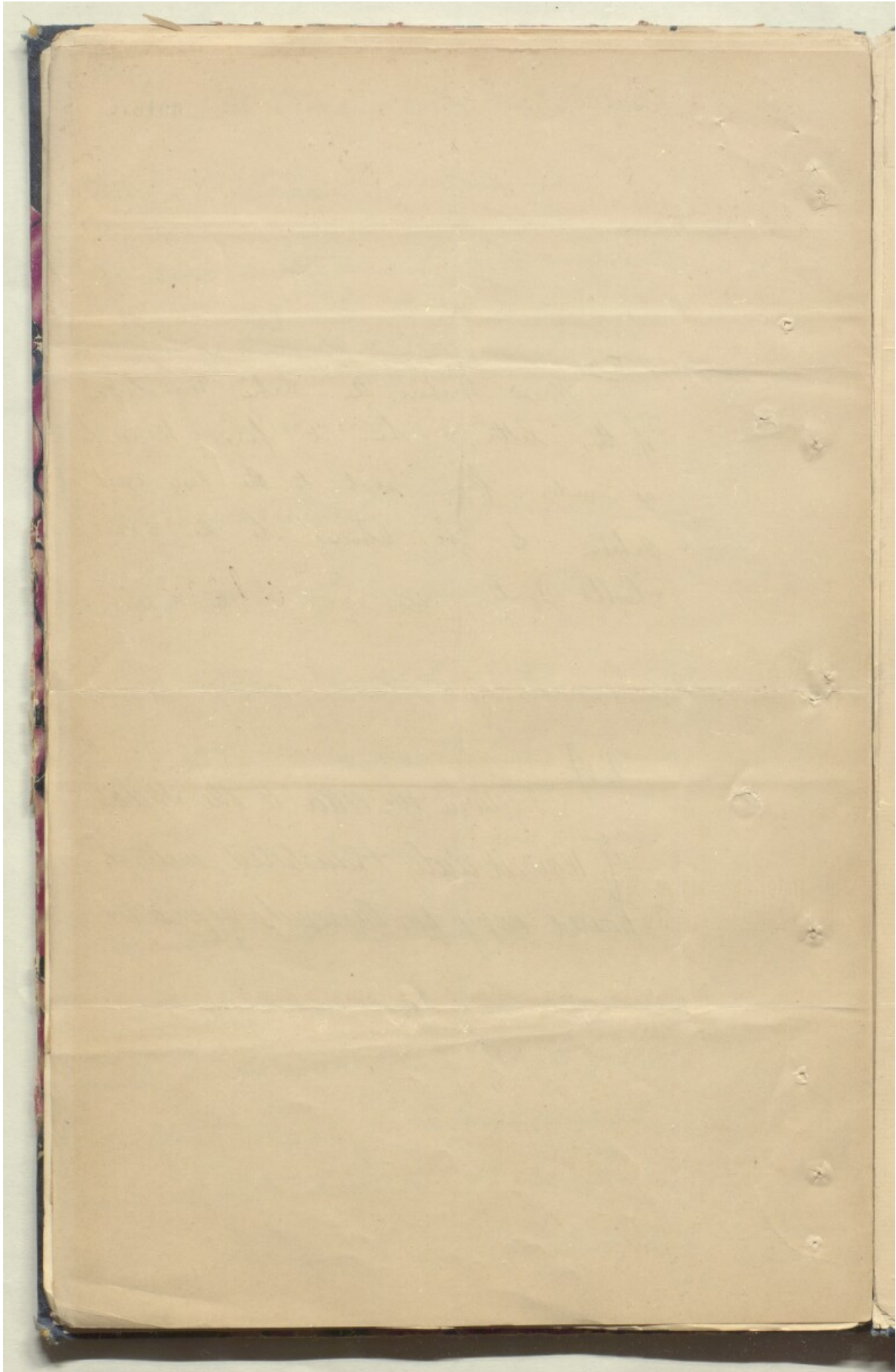
Great Govt.

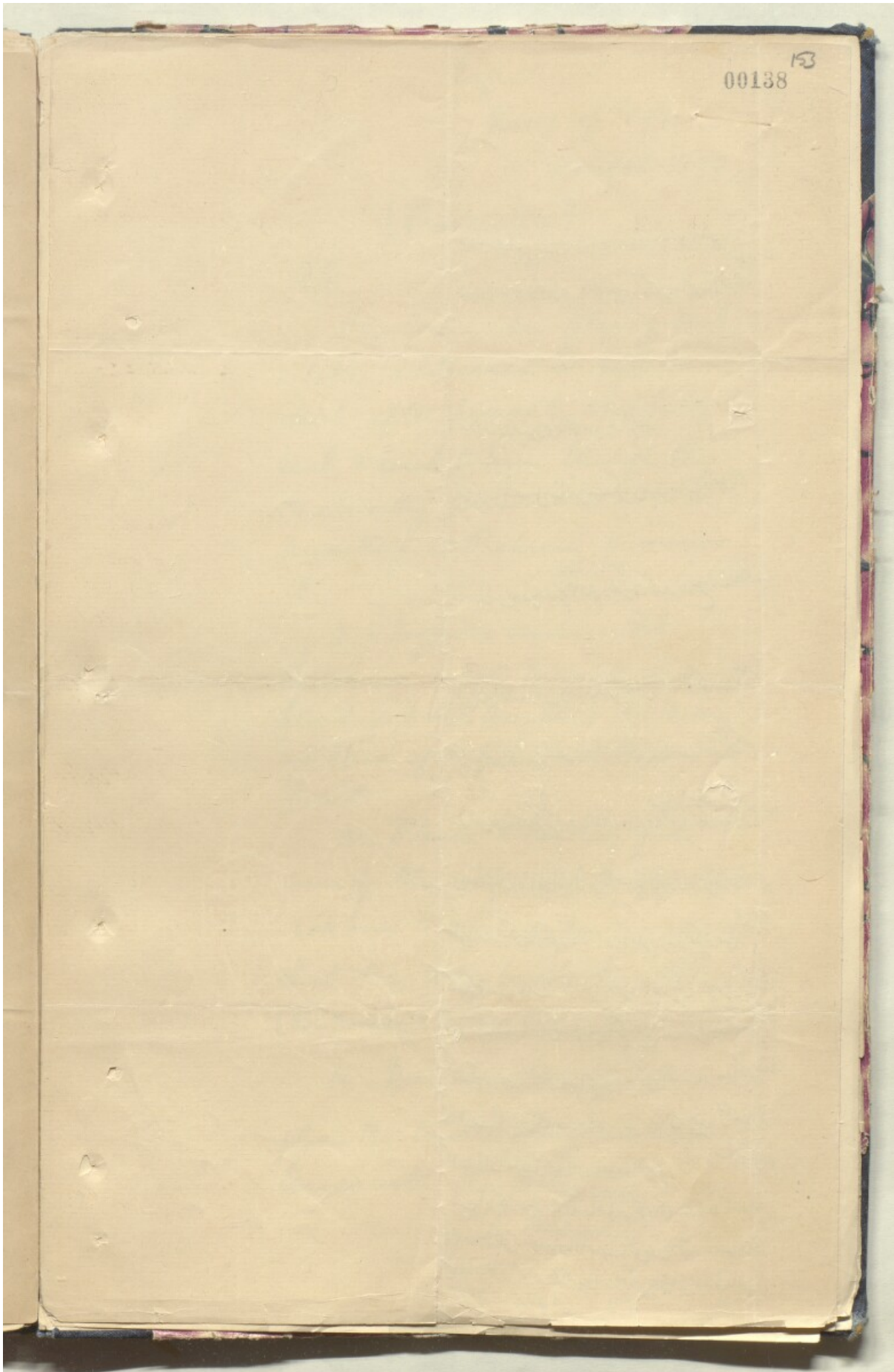
152
00137

Wm
20/4

E. a
Please prepare the Arabic Translation
of this letter, & have it fair'd. It is to
go under flying seal to the Resy Agent at
Bahrein to be delivered to the Koweit
Shaikh's Agent. 4080 20/4 99

F. A.
I return the letter to the Sheikh
of Koweit duly translated, with a
fair'd copy for President's signature







من بونيد الموروث من جزير الالهة لعمدة القصر والكل في حلقه فارس
الضباب الاموال لا تخم لعمومنا انتم مبادك بربنا حاكم الكويت

سلام ورسول من حاكم الكويت

تدبرنا بتصل ماله منكم بتوسط جناب الامير

من عبد الله بن مفرح بن خضر الانعم وبشرى الهند قد صرح لعماد

التي نخرج اكلنا نحن وجناكم معا حسن مجينا الى الكويت

الكم مع هذا الكتاب شخصها نحن ابدنا المصاحب التي انتم

ضمان من جهة خيلكم على ارض الفان والدولة العثمانية قد اعطاني

ان نعطكم التاميل لحياتكم ولا تخافكم ايضا والدولة العثمانية العظمى

تعمل بالذي يمكن لحياتكم وحماية اخوانكم من غير ملاكم في طول الفان

فما كانت تلك الاملا ليقع عليها التجر يكون فخرنا به حصل

لنا الاعجاز ايضا ان سلم المجهاتكم مبلغ خمسة عشر الف روبية

ونصر مريدنا نوله المجهاتكم ايجي طريقكم انب واسهل لكم هذه

المراد يستلزم ان تكون متوفرة ويسترجعنا ان نضع دائما الجواركم

السادة اذ اعلمنا بكم قاربونا بوجه لا يؤول الى الاقضاء وكون

طبعنا طرهم انهم حرة الدولة حاصله حياتكم وكون حياتكم كمال الصلابة

في عاقبة التي دخلتم فيها وادام حياتكم على هذه كصفة تفقدون

تفقدون على امرهم كالدولة العثمانية العظمى هذا امر ورضع



Confidential

154
00139

No 117 of 1899.

23 April 1899.

(Translation)

a/c

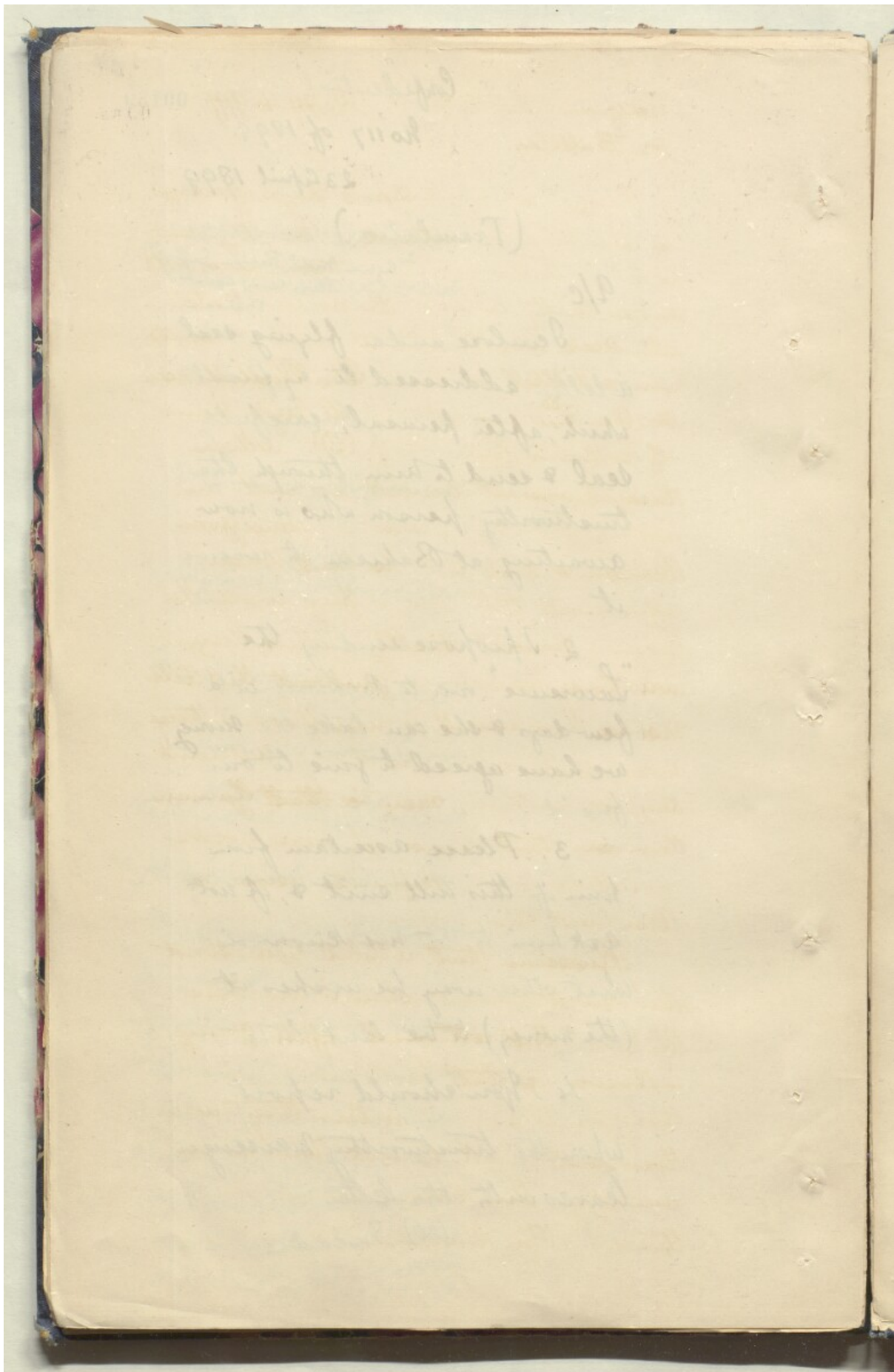
To Agna Mohd. Rahim, Safan
Residency Agent
Bahrein.

I enclose under flying seal
a letter addressed to my friend
which, after perusal, carefully
seal & send to him through the
trustworthy person who is now
awaiting at Bahrein to receive
it.

2. I propose sending the
"Lawrence" over to Bahrein in a
few days & she can take the money
we have agreed to give to our
friend.

3. Please ascertain from
him if this will suit & if not,
ask him to let me know in
what other way he wishes it
(the money) to be sent to him.

4. You should report
when the trustworthy messenger
leaves with the letter
(ed) Meade





Telegram J.E.T.D.
fr. Bulkley.

Of 21. 4. 99

155
00140

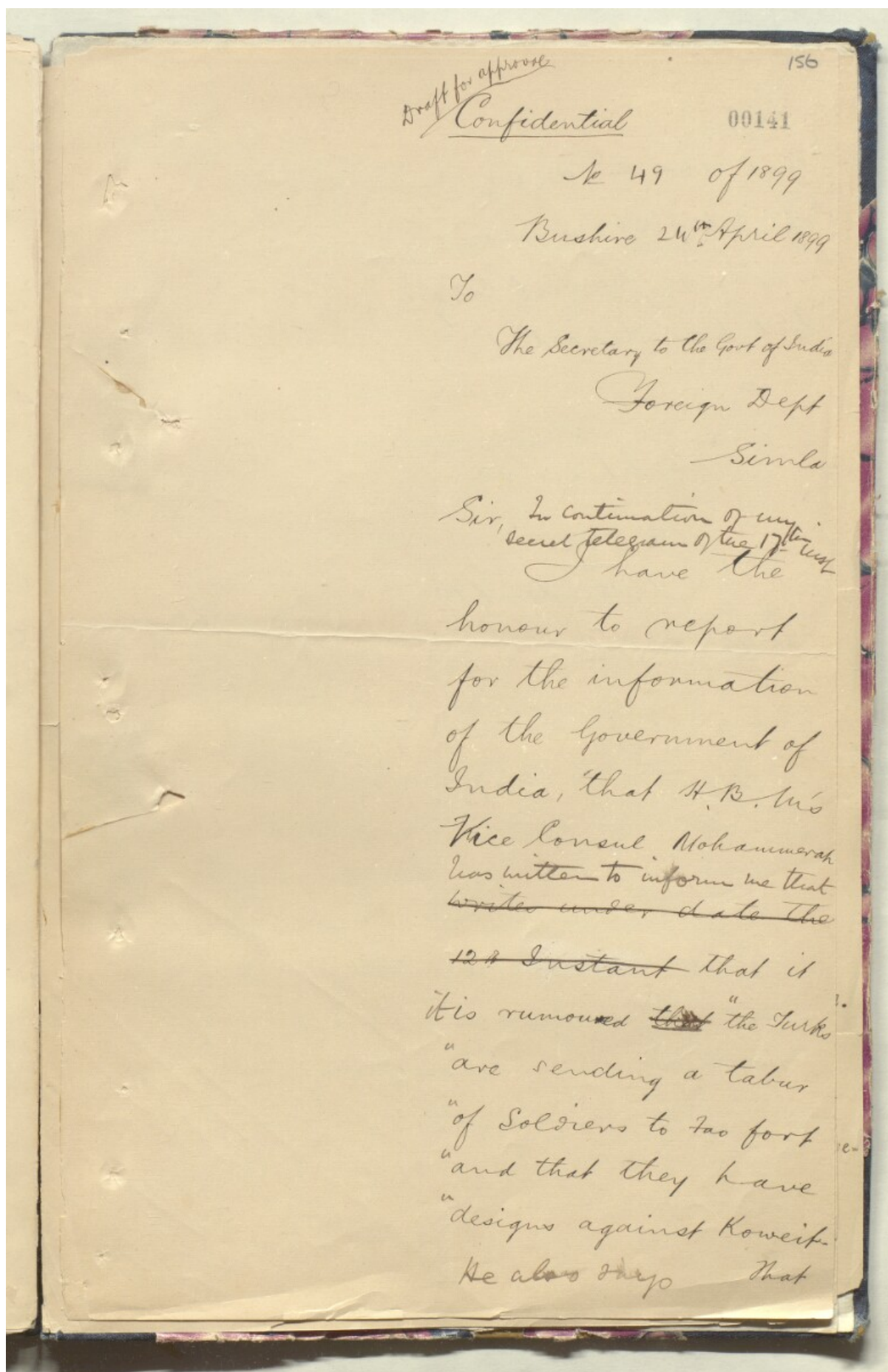
Khazal returned some days ago says
re Ibn Rashid's attack. He attacked
Bedouin tribe & looted them. Loss both
sides thirty killed. Bedouins later
attacked Ibn Rashid & completely routed
him & killed seven of Ibn Rashid's men.
He (Ibn R.) has returned to hejd. home
of Bedouin tribe Mtier (?). When
Khazal was at Koweit, he met an
influential Sheikh who had come from
Bahrein & said that he had been
informed that British flag would be
hoisted Koweit shortly. While Khazal
was there, he saw no gunboats but tells
me he has heard a man of war is there
now, supposed to be British but can't
say for certain, may be that German
cruiser that came up some weeks
ago. Hope to get definite news re
this boat this afternoon.

Russian that I told you about
who was at Koweit when I was there
had left but returned after going
interior & that Inobarak had given
the men in Koweit orders they were
have nothing to do with him as he
was spy. This Khazal heard while
there. The Russian seems have



put Inobarak's back up & there
are reasons for above orders about
no one have anything to do with him.

Unsigned



Draft for approval
Confidential

156

00141

No 49 of 1899

Bushire 24th April 1899

To

The Secretary to the Govt of India
Foreign Dept
Simla

Sir, In continuation of my
secret telegram of the 17th inst
I have the

honour to report
for the information
of the Government of
India, that H. B. M's
Vice Consul, Mohammarah
has written to inform me that
~~written under date the~~
~~12th instant~~ that it
is rumoured ~~that~~ "the Turks
"are sending a tabur
"of Soldiers to Iraq fort
"and that they have
"designs against Koweit.
He also says that



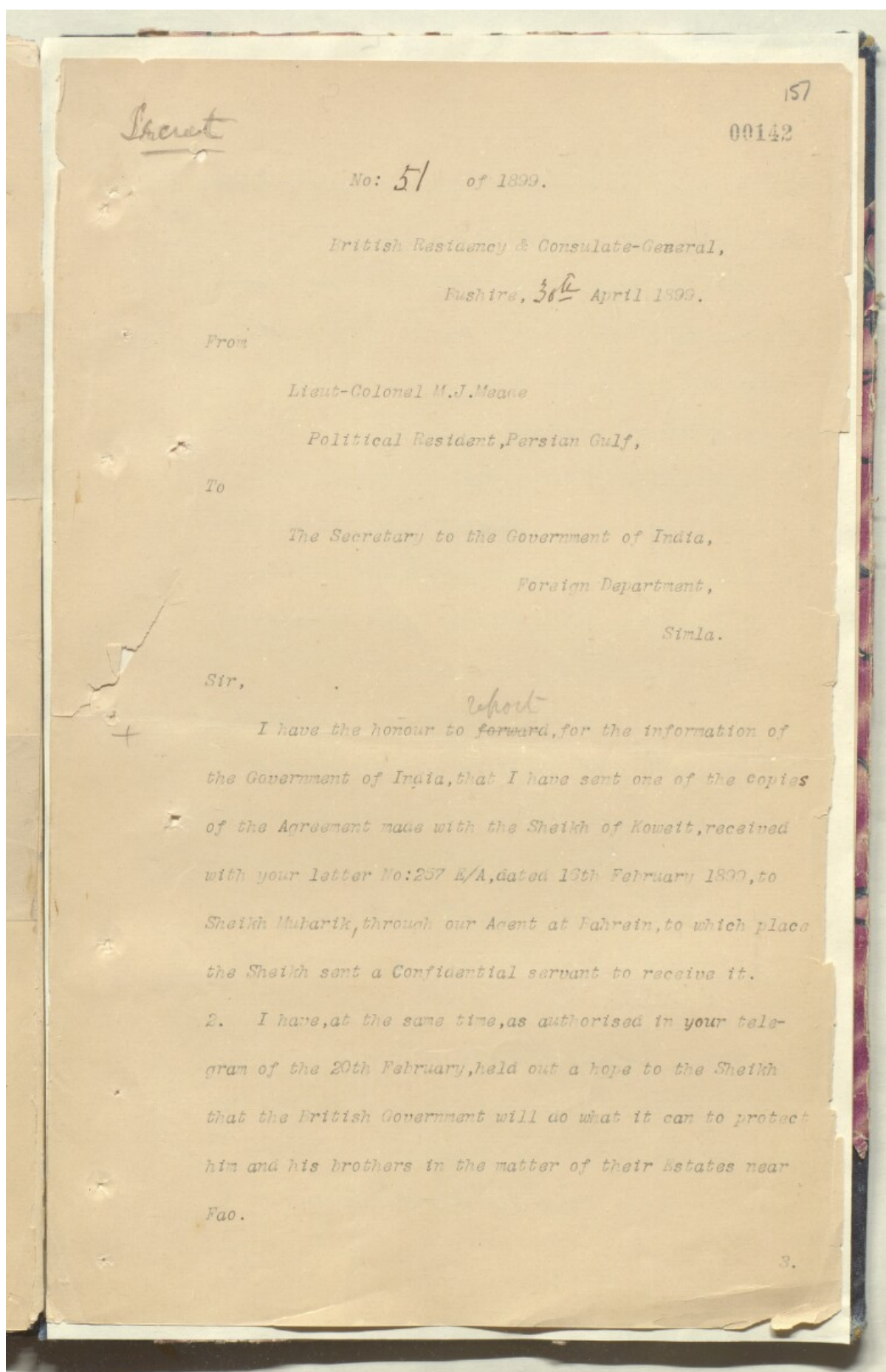
That about Aziz
of Jebel Shammar
was near Koweit lately
but has departed.

I have rc

M Jm

Resident rc

W.H.
23/4/99





3. The Sheikh has further been informed that the Rupees 15,000 agreed on, will be sent to him by the way most convenient to himself. I have informed him that I think the money had better be sent to Bahrein in the R.I.M.S. "Lawrence" when she goes to Bombay, at the end of May, for annual repairs, and handed over to his Agent at that place. The "Lawrence" will be taking specie to Bombay, and the money for Koweit, can be shipped, along with the rest, without exciting notice. Unless, therefore, some other, and better, means of payment, is proposed by the Sheikh, I will send it, as stated above, by the "Lawrence."

4. The Turks appear to have some knowledge of our recent negotiations with the Sheikh of Koweit, and it is rumoured that they are sending a small Force to Fao, for objects connected with the former place. I telegraphed this information to you on the 17th instant and the further reports I have since received tend to confirm the news.

5. The present time of year is not favourable to movements of troops in these regions, and it is unlikely that an expedition against Koweit itself can be undertaken before the autumn. It is, however, also unlikely that

Sheikh



158

00143

Sheikh Muharak will be allowed to get his date harvest from his Estates near Fao, unmolested, and the question of the assistance which H.M.'s Government are prepared to afford the Sheikh, and his brothers, in respect to those properties, may soon require settlement.

6. I venture therefore to recommend that, as soon as I report that an increase of the Turkish Force at Fao, has actually been carried out, H.M.'s Government may be urged to direct our Ambassador at Constantinople, to enquire what the object of the movement is, and should inform the Porte that we will not permit an attack to be made on Koweit.

7. The question will then become one for diplomatic discussion between the ^{two} Governments, and will probably be capable of an early settlement. An understanding, I should imagine, may be arrived at with Turkey, by which the independence of the Sheikhs of Koweit, will be guaranteed, and by which any actual rupture with the Turks will be avoided.

8. The recognition of Muharik El Subah as Sheikh, and ruler of Koweit, would of course have to be one of the conditions, and he would be ^{obliged to carry out the terms} ~~held to the conditions~~ of the agreement he has made with us. His rights to a share of the

Fao



Fao estates, would also require to be placed on a satisfactory footing, and, at the same time, the claims of his nephews can be taken up, and a suitable provision for them can, no doubt, be settled, if the division of the ancestral property is submitted to arbitration.

9. It seems very desirable that some definite settlement of the Koweit question, should be arrived at during the coming summer, during which, although it will be difficult for the Turks to take any active measures against the place, it will also be inconvenient for us to keep our men of war in the Persian Gulf. Any collision between the Turks and ourselves, would, of course, be most undesirable, and would much increase the difficulties there are in the way of a satisfactory arrangement.

10. If an understanding can be arrived at with Turkey before the autumn, the necessity for maintaining a stronger Naval Force than usual, at this end of the Persian Gulf, will no longer exist: but if the matter is still unsettled a few months hence, it will be desirable to have at least 2 gunboats in readiness to go to Koweit if the Turks intend to attack it. I have &c

(ed) Meade

intend



Copy

no: 21.

159
00144
Bussorah

April 22. 1899

Sir,

1. It appears not improbable that the reappointment of Istandi Pasha to the post of Vali of Bussorah may have some effect on the position of Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit. ² It was during Istandi Pasha's first tenure of this post that Mubarek had his brother, Mohamed Pasha the then Sheikh, murdered and seized

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

* Sir N. R. O'Connor G. C. B.

Constantinople



seized the vacant office. ³ His nephews Saoud and Sabah appealed to the Sultan for redress and for the restitution of the lands property which should have come to them but which had been appropriated by Mubarek.

⁴ At first it appeared likely that their petition might be taken into consideration, as it was strongly supported by the Vali who urged on the Porte the convenience of the occasion for an effective occupation of Koweit by Turkish troops.

Mubarek



160
00145

5. Mubarek, however, spent money lavishly in enlisting on his side the Mushir of Baghdad and other high officials, whose influence at Constantinople finally prevailed and Mubarek was eventually - at the end of 1897 - recognised as Sheikh and appointed Kaimakan (Sub-Governor) of Koweit by the Sultan.

6. Besides Hamdi Pasha, the chief supporters of the nephews are Sheikh Jussuf Ibrahim of Dora, their



their maternal uncle, Sheikh Jasim
of Kato, and to a less extent Sheikh
Abdul Aziz of Shammur. The
first-named went so far as to make
an armed attack on Koweit in
June 1897, which was not however
pushed home, and Jasim has
several times threatened the same
thing. ⁷ Sheikh Jussuf Ibrahim
was obliged to leave the country
in order to avoid the consequences
of his breach of the peace, but he
is endeavouring to procure the
pardon of the Sultan.

Since



161
00146

about
12 miles
off.

Since Hamdi was reappointed,
the nephews have come into Bassorah
from Zobeir where they previously
resided, and they will doubtless
push their claims with renewed
activity now that they can
rely on the sympathies of the
Governor General.

The interview which the Resident
at Basrah had in January last
with Mubarak has aroused the
suspicions of the Turkish
authorities and rendered them
very anxious regarding the
intentions



intentions of Great Britain in
that direction. Having lost
confidence in Mubarek, their
sense of justice may be tardily
awakened and may lead them
to think of righting his injured
shepherds, who on their side are
not likely to shrink from any
conditions which may be imposed
on them.

I have &c &c.

(signed) A. C. L. L. L. L.

His Excellency
Barrat



Confidential
This letter seems to have gone to whom by mistake. The delay in delivery is not however much increased. No. 547 - E.A. it can be filed. Wm 26/7

162
H.C. 001
Put in place in the Koweit file 4/26/99

A copy of the foregoing print is forwarded confidentially to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 407. E.A., dated the 14th March 1899.

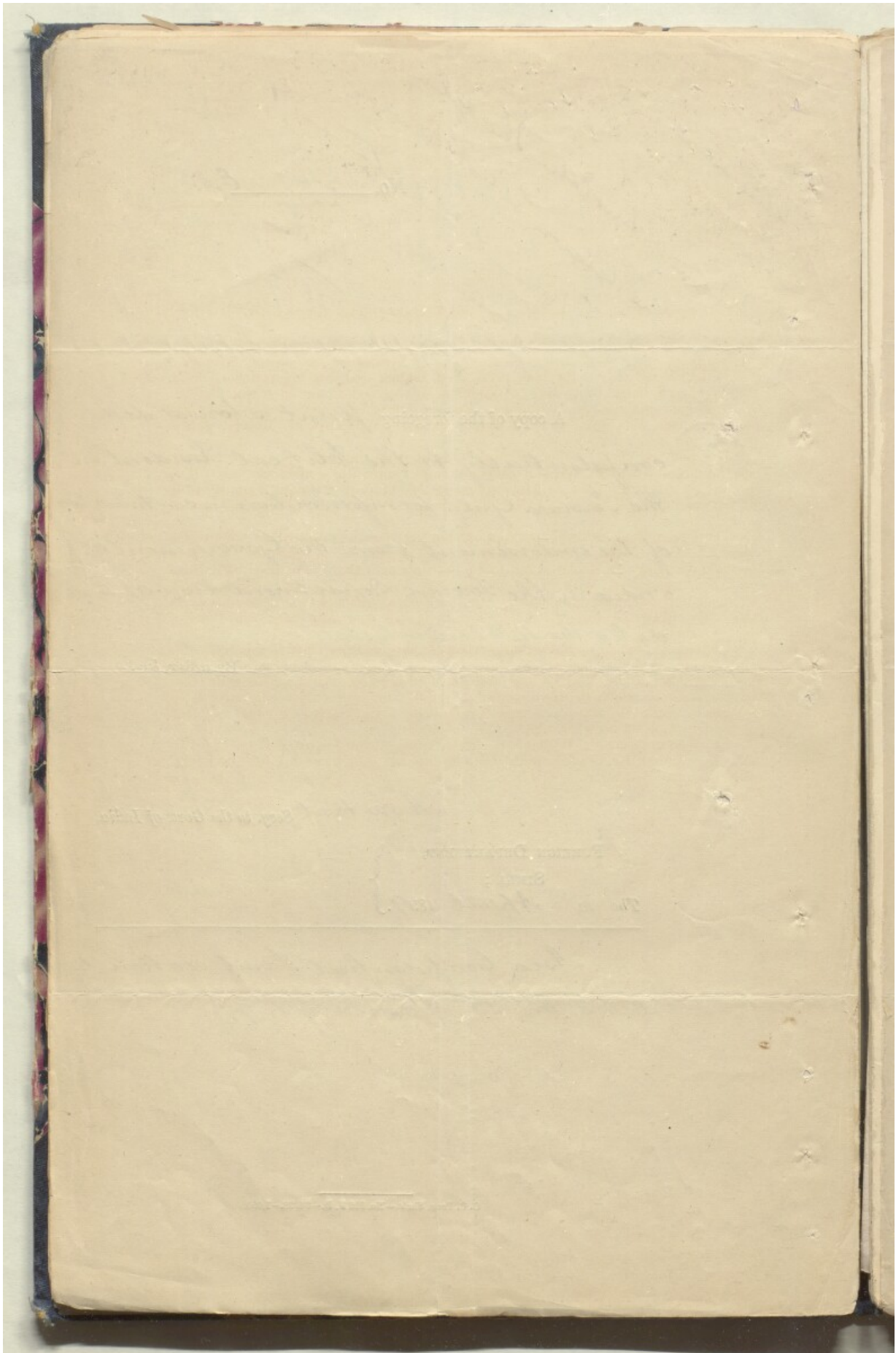
By order, &c.,

S. W. Mayley

Assistant Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
The 10th April 1899. } 407

Asia Confidential Print, section 1,
dated the 23rd January 1899.





[This Document is the Property of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.]

163a
00148

ASIA.

[January 23.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 18, 1899.

I HAVE noticed in the blue print, Asia, Confidential, No. 11, section 1, of the 4th January, a letter from Messrs. Williams, Meyers, and Company to the Foreign Office, which contains some misstatements which it may be as well to correct at once. They are made, I believe, by a Mr. Hahn, Clerk of Williams and Meyers, who is looking after their interests here.

It is not true that I called on Mr. Pears to make inquiries as to the Kapnist negotiations, or that Mr. Weakley called on my behalf with similar purpose. It is also untrue that testified or in fact any copies of letters from Count Kapnist to the Minister of Public Works and M. Rechnitzer were taken to the Embassy and handed to me.

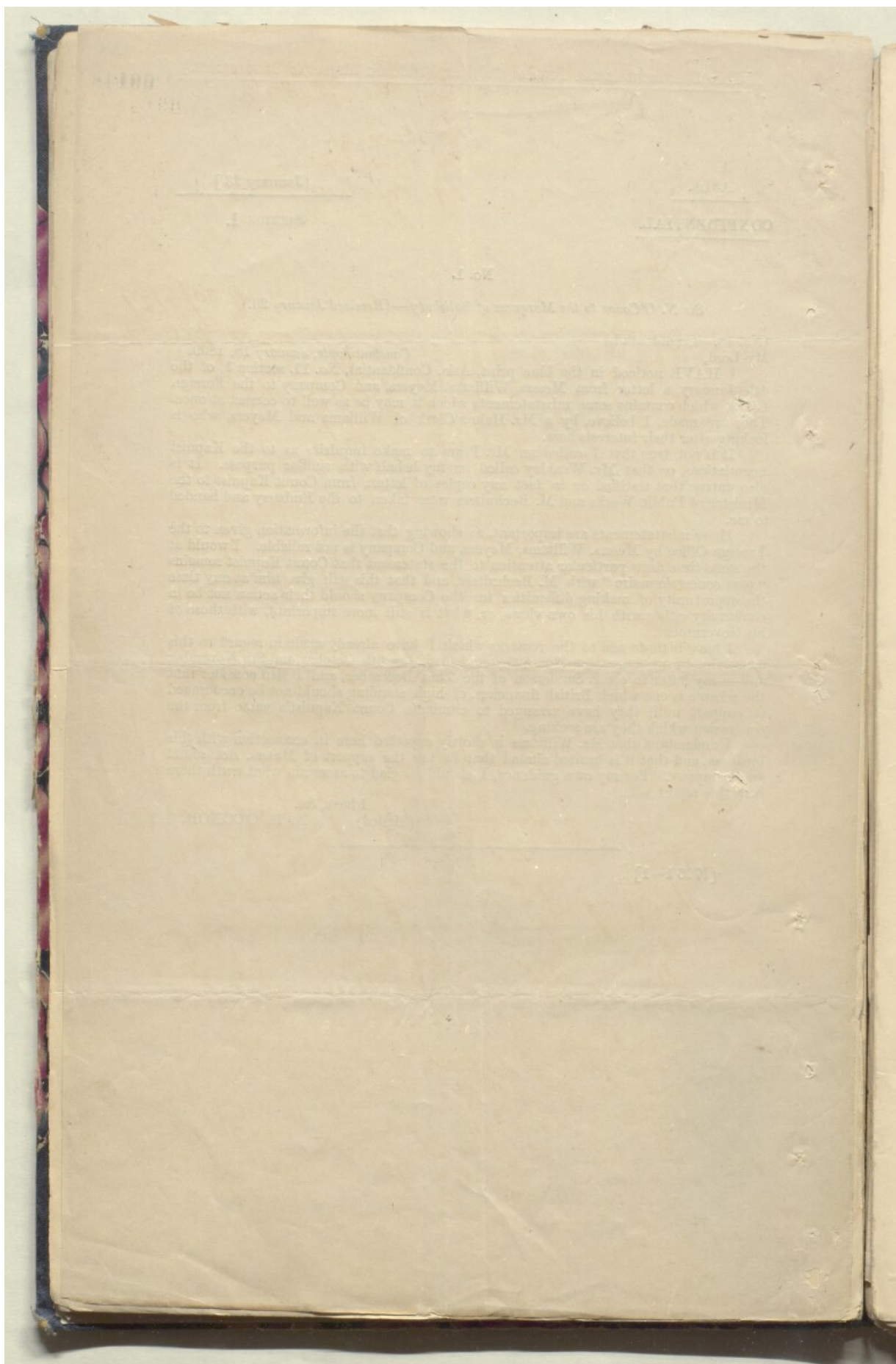
These misstatements are important, as showing that the information given to the Foreign Office by Messrs. Williams, Meyers, and Company is not reliable. I would at the same time draw particular attention to the statement that Count Kapnist remains "part concessionnaire" with M. Rechnitzer, and that this will give him at any time the opportunity of making difficulties for the Company should their action not be in conformity either with his own views, or, what is still more important, with those of his Government.

I have little to add to the remarks which I have already made in regard to this concession in my despatches Nos. 525 and 585 of the 6th October and 8th November and in my letter to Sir T. Sanderson of the 22nd December, and I still consider that the scheme is one which British financiers of high standing should not be encouraged to support until they have arranged to eliminate Count Kapnist's name from the concession which they are seeking.

I understand that Mr. Williams is shortly expected here in connection with this business, and that it is bruited abroad that he has the support of Messrs. Rothschild and Company. For my own guidance, I should be glad to ascertain what truth there is in this report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

[1706 k--1]





No 58 of 1899.

1636
00149

To Foreign

D. Busch 7th May

Sir,

In contⁿ of my letter no: 51 d. 30/4/99
I have the h: to forward for the informⁿ
of the G. of. I a copy of despatch no 21
d. 22/4/99 received by last mail which
Mr Bratislaw, British consul at
Busch has addressed to Sir R. R.
O'Connor G.C.B., H.B.M.'s Ambass-
ador at Constantinople.

2. It will be seen from this letter
that the reappointment of Hamdi Pasha
as Wali of Busch is regarded by
Mr Bratislaw as likely to affect the
position of Sh. Mubarak of Koweit &
I hear that the Pasha may, ere long,
take up the cause of the nephews
against their uncles by encouraging
them to obtain possⁿ of the Fao estates
through the Busch courts. It is
considered likely too that Sheikh
Jasim bin Thani of Kati, Yusuf bin
Ibrahim of Dora & the Sheikhs of
Shammam, will be encouraged to



take some action against Mubarak
to whom they are hostile

3. The verdict of the Busrah
Court will probably be against
Mubarak & in that case the Wali
may send troops to Bas to enforce
it. If this happens, it will then be
necessary for us to be prepared
should the Sheikh apply to us for help,
as he probably will. I do not think,
however, that any action will be
taken before the date harvest.

4. An attack, too, on Koweit,
by the Sheikhs I have mentioned
is possible & if pressed home, we
give rise to a state of things there
which might afford an excuse to
the Turks for active interference.
If they intervened successfully,
it would mean an occupation of
Koweit by them from which it w^d
be difficult, later on, to expel them
& I think, therefore, that we
should not only be prepared to
effectually forbid an attack on K.
but should also, as recommended
in my previous letter, commence
diplomatic action with the Turkish



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00150
Gont &, if possible, come to an understanding with the Porte regarding the Status of the rulers of K.

5. I was not aware of the recognition by the Porte of Sh. Mubarak referred to by Mr Wratclaw, or that he had been given the title of Karim Mubarak. It will, however, be seen from my telegram of the 10th Sept 97 to you & from the copies forwarded to me under cover of your Ind. No. 1444 2/a dt. 13 Sep. 1897, that previous Sheikhs appear to have received such recognition which has not, I gather, been considered as materially affecting their independence at Koweit itself.

6. As regards the Status of the present Sheikh, there is no doubt that he endeavoured after the death of his brother, to obtain the recognition of the Sultan & his overtures to us in 1897 were probably due to the fact that his nephews had obtained the support of the local Turkish authorities at Busrah. Had we then been in a position to at once offer him our protection, he would, I believe, have had no further dealings with the Turks: but, at



that time, H. M.'s Govt. were not disposed to bring K. under Brit. Protection or to interfere with its affairs more than was necessary for the general peace of the Persian Gulf. The Sheikh's advances were not responded to & he seems, in consequence, to have endeavoured to strengthen his position by spending money freely at Constantinople.

7. It is possible that he has, as stated by Mr Wratishlaw, accepted the Title of Kaimi Makam from the Turkish Govt. but, my assistant, Mr Gaskin, informs me that the Sheikh told him when we went to K. in Jan^y that, though he had been offered the title, he had not accepted it. The Sheikh said nothing to me on the subject, & appeared to think that he was quite free to enter into an engagement with us. I do not recollect Mr Gaskin mentioning the matter at the time & he appears to have thought that it was only said to enhance the Sheikh's own importance in the negotiations he was carrying on with us. I think now, however, that the offer of the Post of Kaim



60151/65

makam, & the recognition by the Porte, whether accepted or not by Mubarak, had a good deal to say to the insistence of his brothers as to the terms of the protection we were to offer them. They had, no doubt, spent considerable sums in obtaining something from the Turks, & were reluctant to endanger it, until they knew for certain what we would & could do for them.

B. It would certainly have been more satisfactory, if we C^d have come to an arrangement about K. in 1897, before the Sheikh was offered Turkish recognition: but I am of opinion that neither he, nor his predecessors have considered that any recognition or title bestowed by the Sultan affected their independent position at K. itself, & that the title of Kami Mulkam, when accepted, has been chiefly regarded as referring to their estates in Turkey, the possession of which is undoubtedly a source of weakness to them, as they are liable to be constantly harassed in regard to these properties.



by Turkish officials. They consider probably that the title of *Kaim* *Mokam* gives them an official position in return & enables them to meet official attacks. Sheikh *Mubarak* was well aware that, whatever recognition he might have received from the Sultan, would be of little avail if it suited the Turks to support his nephews against him, & he, himself, welcomed the opportunity of obtaining our support. There is no doubt, too, that, ~~he~~ whatever may have been done to reassure the Sheikh by offering him recognition & a Title, the Turks have, for some time, been waiting for a favorable opportunity to interfere actively in K: affairs, with the object of completely absorbing it into the Turkish empire. This would be the ulterior object of their interference, whatever side they take.

Q. The questions arising out of the relations of the Sh: of K: with ourselves & with the Turks will have to be settled



00152 166

between the two Govts but I may mention certain points which seem to deserve attention. We have, in the first place, never admitted the rights of Turkey over K: & have now an agreement with the present Ruler, to whom we have promised our good offices. We can always make it extremely difficult for the Turks to attack the place itself but, to resist such an attack, would mean a rupture with Turkey & involve serious consequences which H. M.'s Govt would no doubt wish to avoid.

Our interests in the Persian Gulf, however, make it well nigh impossible that we should allow the Turks or any other Power, or its subjects, to obtain a foothold at K: which may become the eastern terminus of a R.R. on the shortest route to India. Our interests in the place, its natural advantages, & good harbour, are all such that it will affect us seriously, if it ever passes into other hands & we should be prepared to sacrifice much before we relinquish our interest in the place.



On the other hand, however, it cannot be denied that the Turks have, for some time, regarded K: as lying within their sphere of influence & that its Sheikhs, much of whose property is in Turkey, have, to some extent, admitted that influence. The Turks have never exercised sovereign rights at, or extended their authority to, K: nor have they ever had an effective occupation of it; but they do occupy, with our tacit consent, places further down the Arab coast.

10. While then we are justified in maintaining the independence of K: & in endeavouring to establish our own influence, we must, I think, be prepared for much opposition from Turkey & may have some difficulty in coming to terms with her. I have ventured, therefore, to recommend that negotiations with the Porte should not be delayed & I think that, while they are pending, we should keep at least one gunboat ready, at this end of the Gulf, to stop any attempt by the Turkish authorities at Omurah, to send a force by sea. The Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf should receive



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CF153
definite instructions as to the steps to be taken, under certain circumstances: but this may have already been done by H. E. the Naval C. in C.

Great care will be necessary, as it will not be possible to interfere with the movements of Turkish troops until sufficient proof is forthcoming what their real destination is, even after a Force has left the Shat el Arab, it may be asserted that it is on its way to St. Kath or some other place on the Arab coast. It is very desirable that an attack on Koweit should be prevented but, at the same time, any premature collision, which could not be fully justified afterwards, ought to be avoided. I do not anticipate any movement being made for some time to come, but the interests involved are considerable & it is best to be prepared for all eventualities. One gunboat, the Lapwing, is now in the Shat-el-Arab & should, I think, be kept there or at Baseline for the present.



11. It would also perhaps be
advisable to have a secret news
Agent at K: on a small salary of
Rs 50 per mensem to keep us
informed of anything going on
there

I have &c
(sd) Meade.



Copy.

Bussorah

May 3. 1899

No: 23.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch
No: 21 of the 22nd ultimo, I have
the honour to report that Sheikh
Mubarek of Koweit has recently
imposed an import duty of
5% ad valorem on all goods
arriving in his country. Hitherto
merchandise imported into
Koweit from Bussorah or other
Turkish ports was exempted
from

H. S. Sir N. R. O'Connor G.C.B.

Constantinople



from such duty on presentation
of a certificate from a Turkish
Custom House, but the Sheikh
now declines to recognise these
certificates and claims duty on
all imports whatever be their
origin.

I learn that the Mudir of the
Bussorah Custom House has
complained to the Wali of this
proceeding on the part of the
Sheikh. Hamdi Pasha in
reply begged the Mudir to let
the question be for the moment
and

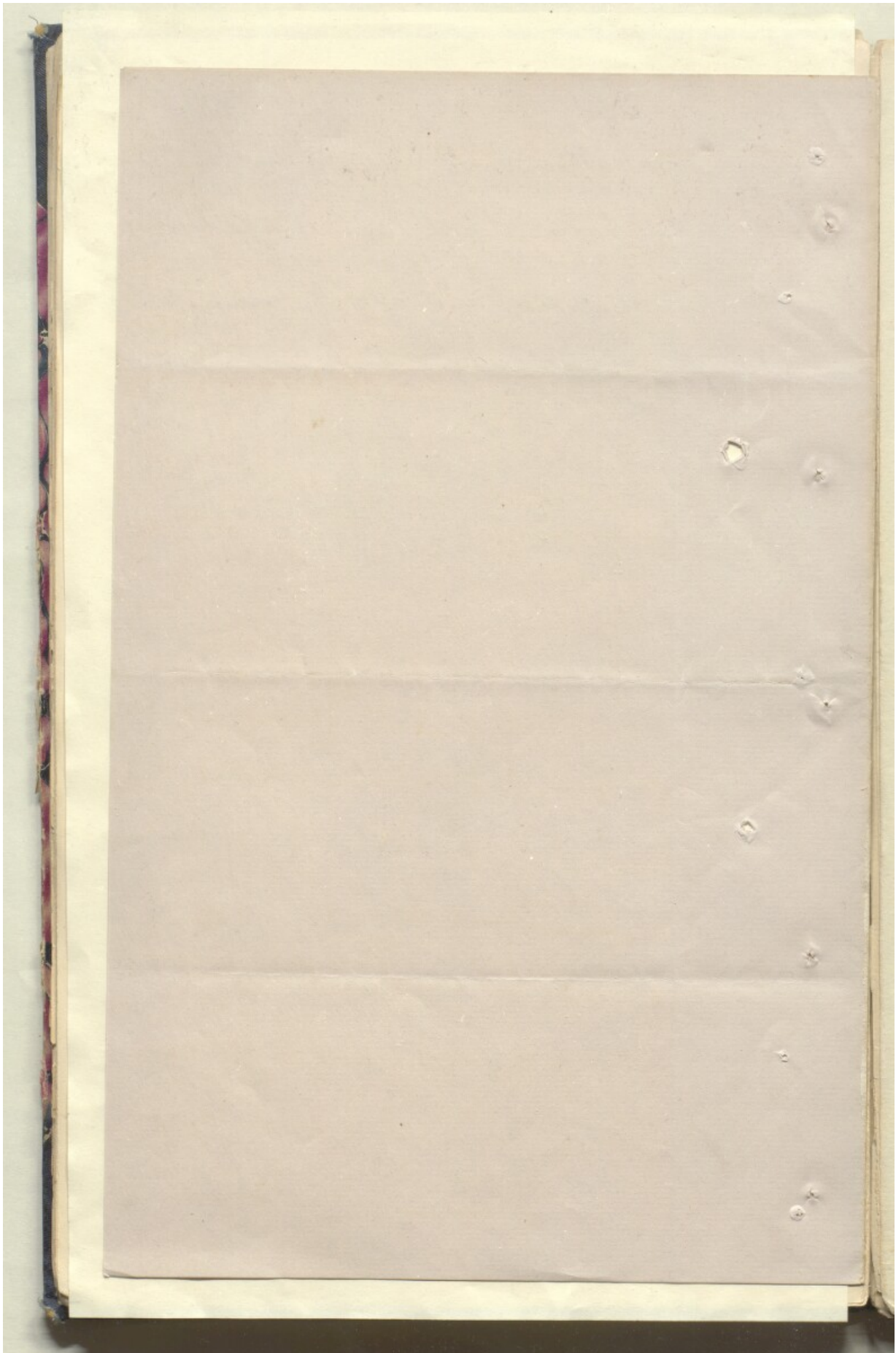


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and allow him time to get settled
in his new post and make himself
acquainted with all the circumstances
of the case.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. C. Wroatislaw





Confidential

Foreign NO 62 8/14th May/99

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00155

Sir

In continuation of my letter NO 58
about ^{affairs}

of 7th May 99 ~~regarding~~ Koweit I leave

the honor to forward for the info.

No. 23, dated 3rd May 1899

of the Govt of India
a copy of another
letter noted on the
margin of the Com.

at Bunch to our Ambassador at
Constantinople, Mr. W. Watislaw
has ^{sent} forwarded to me.

2. I will endeavour to ascertain the
facts of the imposition of an import
duty by Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit,
like report again when I ^{have} ~~have~~ obtained
full information on the subject. The
Sheikh told me that he intended to



introduce a regular Customs Dept: but I am
 not aware that he ~~was~~ proposed taking
 any steps in that direction for some
 time to come, & his putting on an import
~~Bl. his present action~~ duty against Turkish
 Ports may precipitate some action
 against him on the part of the Turkish
 authorities, who are ^{the Com. of the Laurence} reportable ~~to the Com.~~
~~of the Laurence~~ engaged in increasing
 the accommodation at Ras Fort. It is
 difficult to get very accurate information
 as to what is going on at that place
 but Lt. Com. Kendall says he could
 see by the ships that there were several
 tents pitched near the fort, & work of
 some sort was going on - in progress -
 3. The Sheikh of Musannah who is closely
 connected with Sheikh Mubarek told
 Lt. Com. & Lambert of H. M. S. Labuan



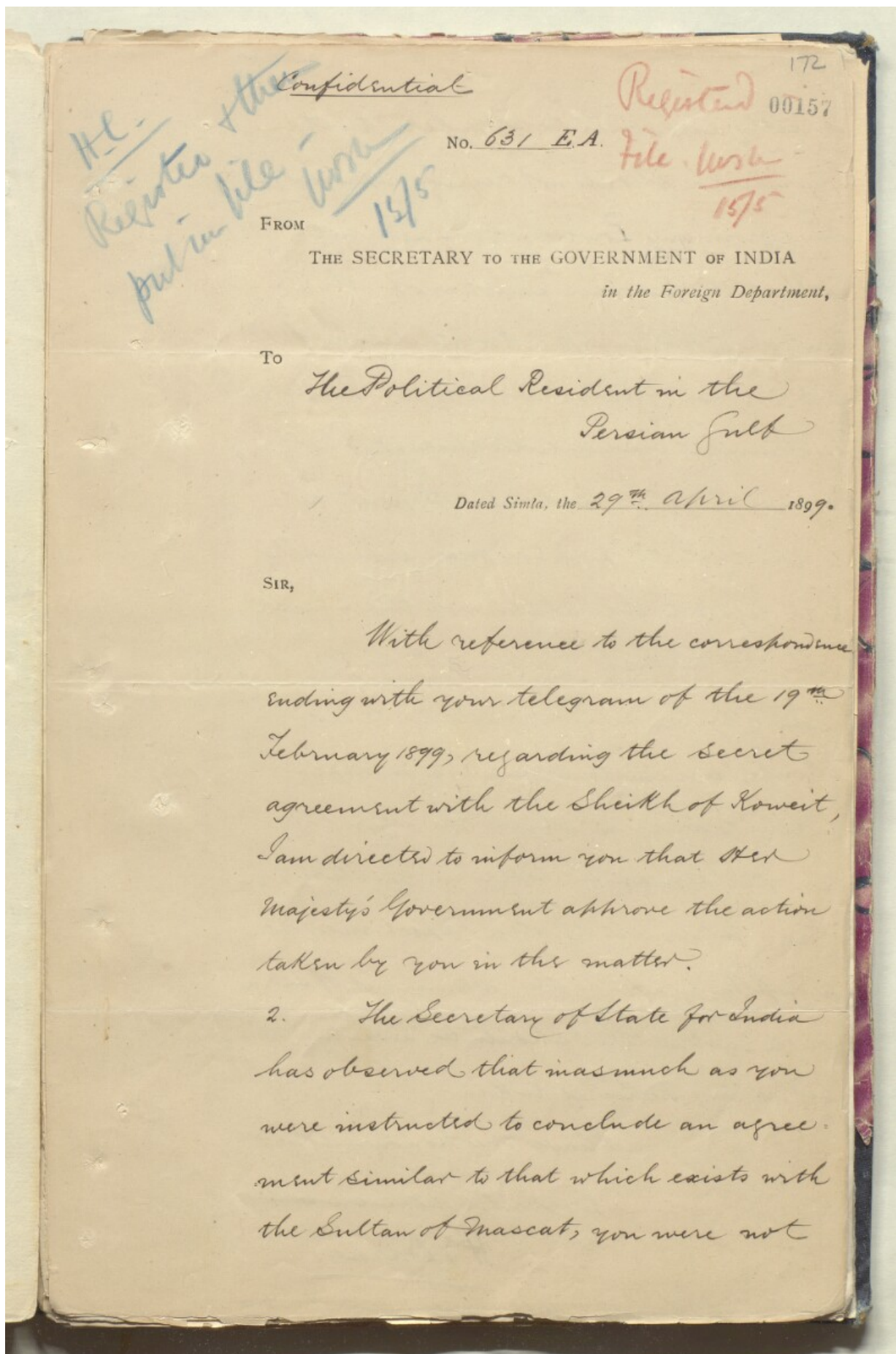
0016071
 when he was up the river a few days ago
 that it was reported among the Turks
 & Arabs that Sheikh Mubarak had
 applied to the British for protection: but
 it was not known what answer he had
 received. Sheikh Khazal tried to find
 out for Com^r Lambert, who could not
 give him any information. The
 Sheikh said that the Turks w^d ~~not~~
 endeavour to ruin Mubarak: but w^d
 not ~~try~~ to attack him themselves -
 He thought they were endeavouring to
 incite various other ^{Arab} Sheikhs, & particularly
 the powerful Sheikh of Nejd, to attack
 Kuwait, & that troubles ^{might} be
 fomented in this way & he long w^d
 give the Turks an excuse for interfering.
 4. It is ^{further} stated that the Turks are not
 at present in a position to make any
 movement as they are occupied in



putting down an insurrection ~~the~~
the ~~broken~~ broken out somewhere
up the river between Kuseh &
Bagdad. If this news is correct it is
not likely that ^{an expedition against Koweit} ~~any active measures~~
^{undertaken} will be ~~taken~~ for some time to come.

None

13/5

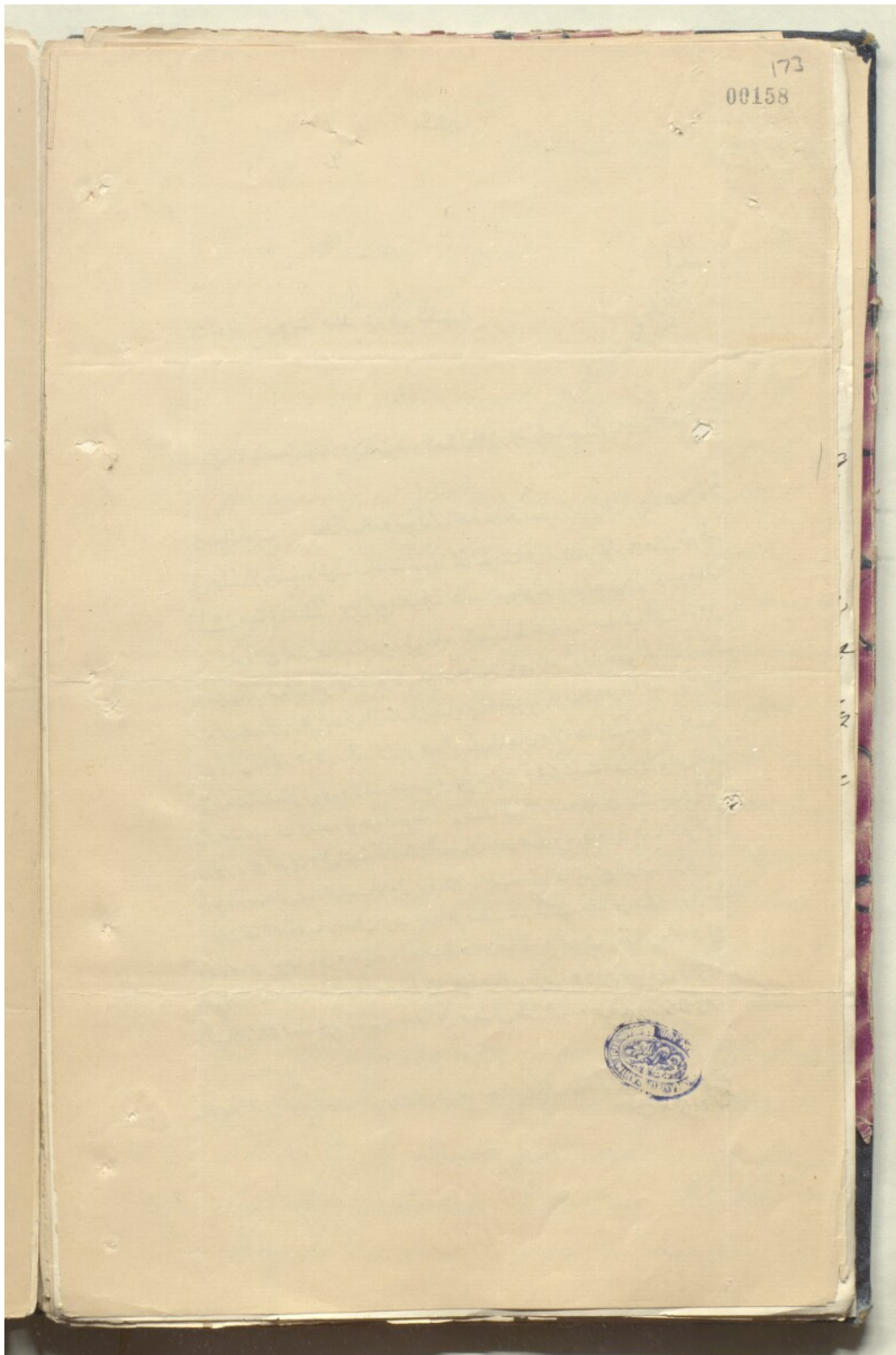




directly authorised to stipulate that the Sheikh should not receive representatives from any Power or Government without the previous sanction of the British Government. Nevertheless as the proviso has been introduced, Her Majesty's Government have decided that it shall remain in force. But I am to point out to you that its operation more especially with regard to the relations of the Sheikh with the Turkish Government will require to be very carefully watched. Should circumstances arise or appear likely to arise in which the stipulation itself may be called in question, I am to request that a report may be promptly made to the Government of India whose instructions should be awaited before any action is taken.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
H S Darnley

Off. Secretary to the Government of India





١٧٣

١٧٣

من كبريت

من كبريت مروت ملا شهر في ١٨٩٩

من كبريت

من كبريت مروت ملا شهر في ١٨٩٩
حضره جناب العالي الجاه ذوي كشوة والاحلال الاكرم الاعظم صاحب الكون ميايا ابو وفضل

دام بقاءكم آمين بعد السلام وسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم للعلية لانهم في خبر وعافية وفي
في اوكالات وفات واشرف ساعات تشوق بقاءكم الساسي للوالي المؤرخ في شهر الحج
١٣١٦ مطابق ١٢٣٠ ابريل مع ملفوفه كتاب سعادكم باسم الصديق المهور مفتوحاً
امر من بعد اطلاقنا عليه في غاية الاحياط نخفة ونرسله اليه بحجة الرجل
الامين الذي من طرفه حاضر في البحرين منتظر لتخصيله ومارحظونكم اننا نستفسر
منه من جهة الدارهم الذي اوعده لوجها باي وسيله يكون وصولها اليه فلا يخفى
ان الرجل المذكور هو عبد الله بن ابراهيم سمكه لما طال به الانتظار كان له لوائيم عليه
ولا يمكنه التاخير من ياده ولا كنه سوف يرجع سريعاً ونجكم كبتت للصدوق واخبرته بذلك
واكدت عليه ان يرجعه لوجه كسوعه في ١٢٣٠ الحج ١٣١٦ مطابق ١٢٣٠ شهر في ١٨٩٩
المذكور مرجع للبحرين وفي محبة كتاب من الصديق باسم محكم وبحوفه مرفقه فيها بعض شروا
طلبها جناب عالي الجاه لثايب الاول بربريد صاحب سناها اليه مع الكتاب المذكور
ومن جهة الاستفسار منه من طرف الدارهم في ١٢٣٠ الحج ١٣١٦ مطابق ١٢٣٠ ابريل ١٨٩٩
عرضا بان يعرفنا باي وسيله يناسب له وصولها اليه ونحن في انتظار جوابه ومع
وصوله سوف نعرض به لاسامعكم الكريمة هذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم سالمين وعمرين
وكل سلام حرره في ١٢٣٠ مطابق ١٢٣٠ شهر في ١٨٩٩ مع محكمهم بربريد

حالا عبد الله بن ابراهيم سمكه امين الصدوق منوجه سناها بيد كتاب من محكم بحوفه كتاب سعادكم
مع محكمهم بربريد



N^o 56

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00159

Bahrein 11th May 1899

From Bahrein Agent
To Resident.
Yr

In the most blessed hour I received your letter dated 23rd April 99 enclosing a letter from you to the known friend under flying seal.

You instructed me that after perusal I should seal it carefully and send it to him by the trustworthy person sent by him, who is waiting in Bahrein to receive it. You also desired me to enquire from him in what manner the money you promised him should be sent to him.

Let it be known to you that the said person (i.e. messenger) is Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsamana and ^{finding} ~~reason~~ the delay prolonged, as he had many matters to attend to, he could not wait any longer but he intended to return. On the 3rd May he returned to Bahrein bringing a



letter with him from the friend to my
address, with an enclosure in which ~~some~~
some matters are mentioned. Capt. Pridmore
First Asst. Resident asked for ~~it~~ ^{it} & I handed
~~it~~ ^{it} to him with the said letter.

With reference to asking him about the
money, I, on the 25th April, wrote to him
to inform me of the most convenient
means to him, by which the money can be
sent to him. ~~When~~ I am waiting for a
reply which I will forward to you when
received.

JCH
14/99



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00160

لاجل اطلاع سعادكم

نقدم من جھذ الخاب الذي من حظونكم لخاب الصادق لم يكن في صدره مكتوباً باسم خابكم
بالعربي كجاري العاده كذا لك لم يكن فيه تاريخ الانكليسي بكتابة العربي ايضاً لم يكن فيه
كذلك التبريد فقط مع وصول عالي الجاه النائب الاول برتبة عرضاه عليه
وانما بان لصدري عليه من سعادكم وامثلت امره وخابه لادب بخيركم من ذاك كرام
جميع جديريه

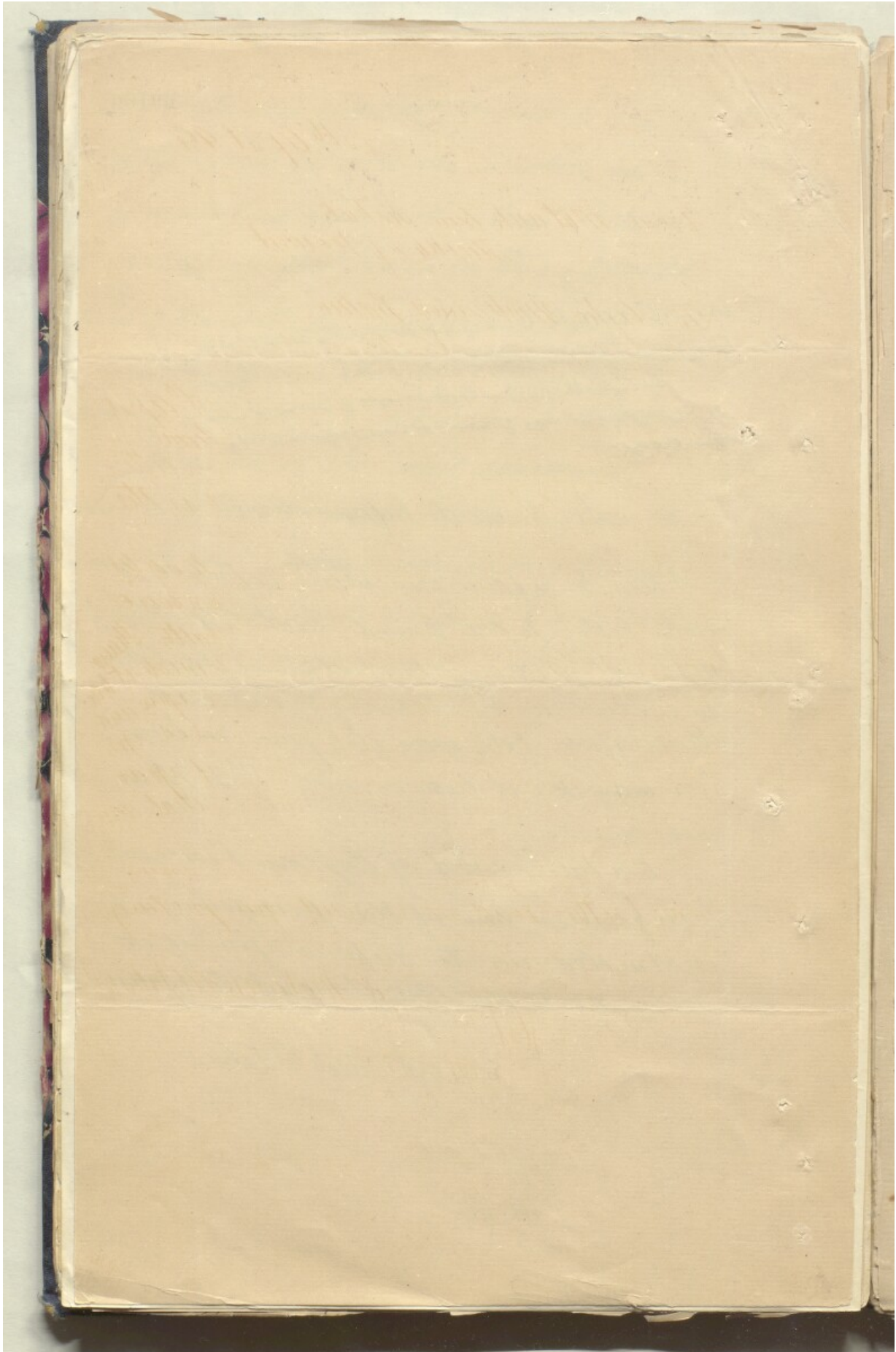
For Residents information

I beg to inform you with reference to
your letter to the friend, that your name
was not written at the bottom of the letter
in Arabic, as customary. Likewise
the English date was not given in Arabic
nor ~~was~~ did it bear a seal. Also it was
not numbered.

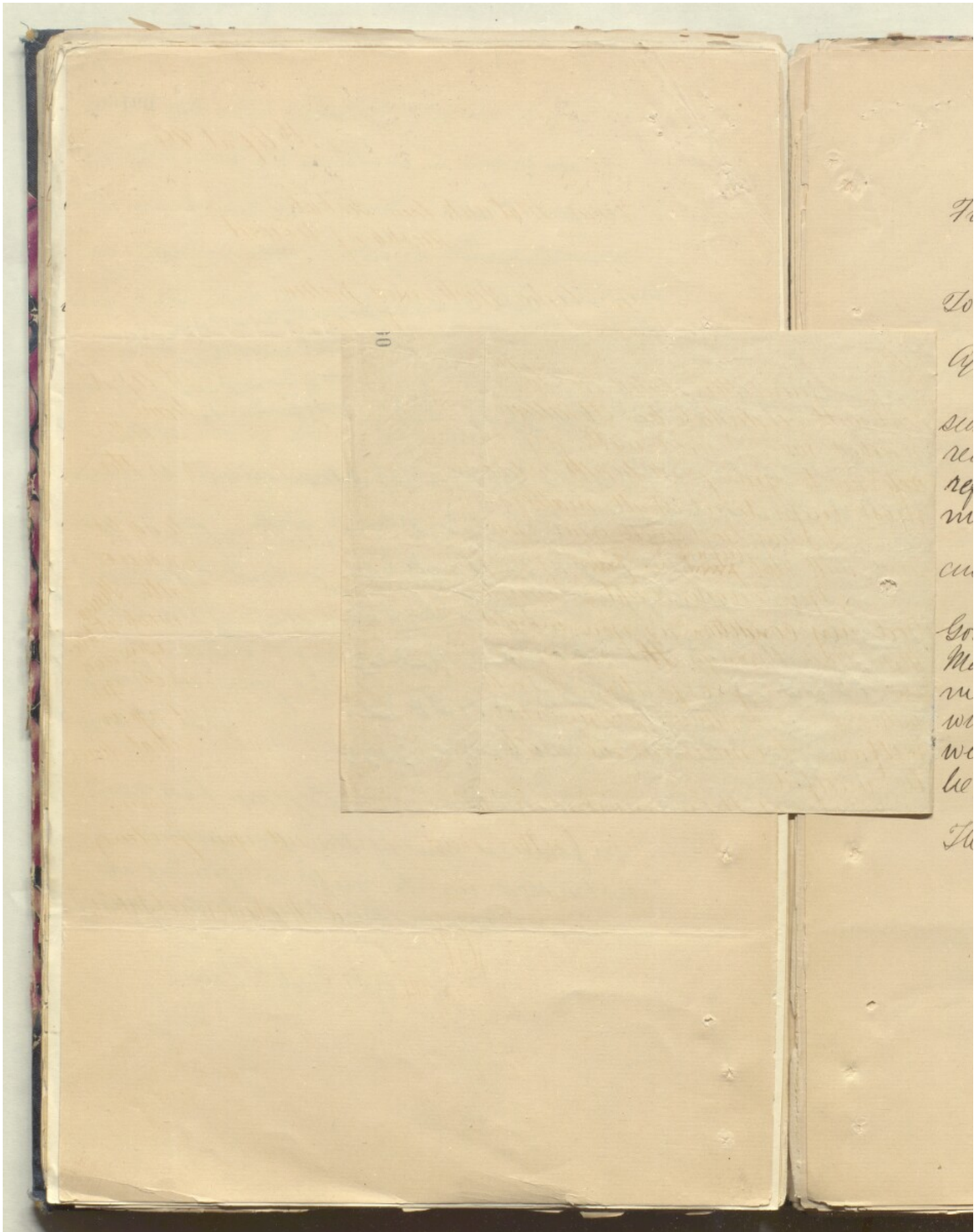
On the arrival of Captain Pridmore
I informed him of the foregoing & he
instructed me to inform you of it.
No doubt he will mention it to you.

Sgd) Mohd. Rabin

14/5/99



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00162¹⁷⁷

27th April 99.

From Mubarak bin Sabah
Sheikh of Koweit

To. Agha Muhamed Rellin
Bahrein.

My

Your letter dated the 6th & 18th April sent with Abdullah bin Ibrahim have reached me. I read with joy your letter referring to your good health which is the most important of all matters.

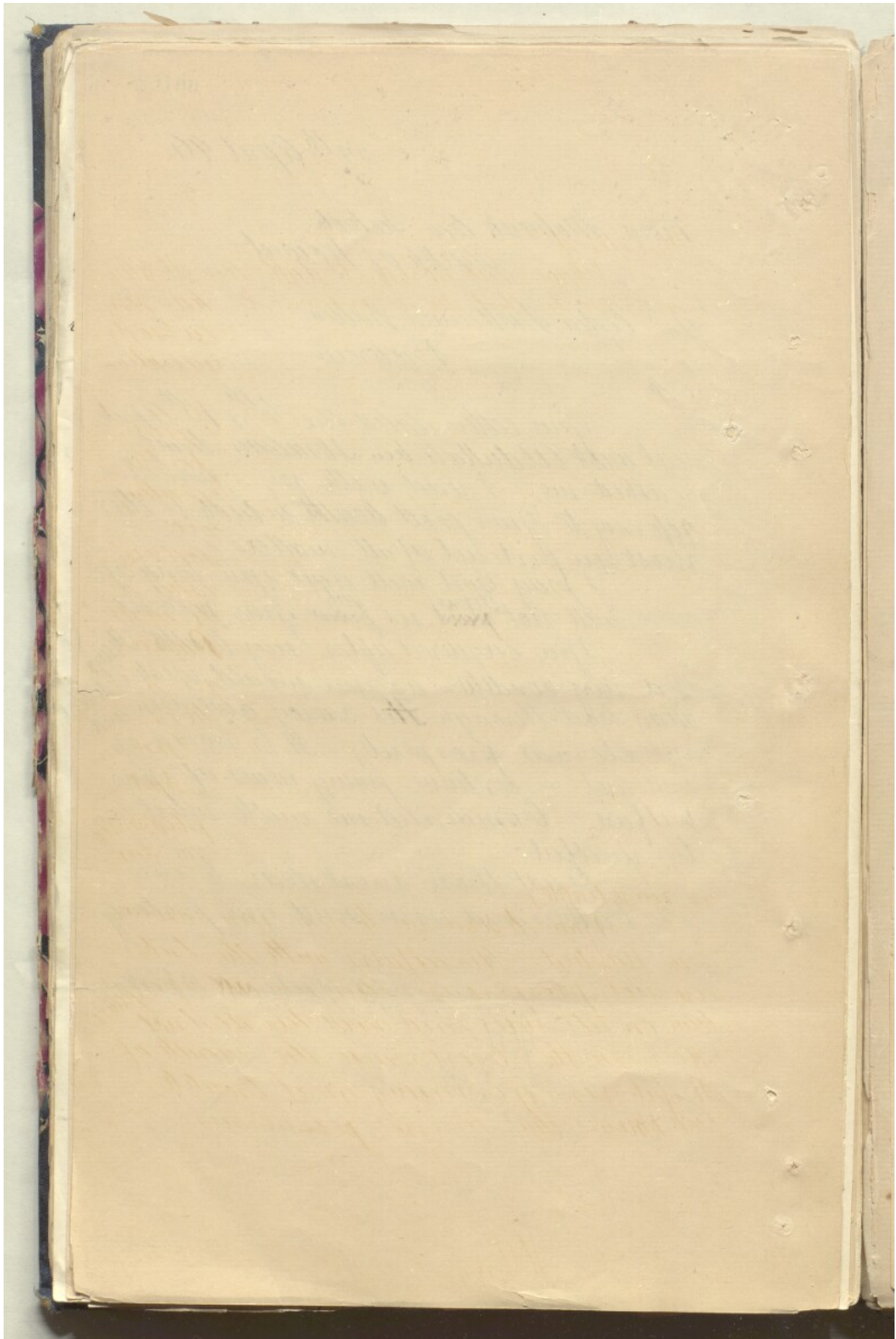
I pray God will give you long life and will not ~~part~~^{deprive} us ~~from~~^{of} your presence.

You enquired after my health. Thank God my condition as you would wish it. May God through His mercy give you and me eternal prosperity. It is hoped you will not discontinue giving news of your welfare. Communicate me with what may be needful.

Greet those most dear to you
The brothers and sons send you greetings.

Yd Mubarak AlSabah

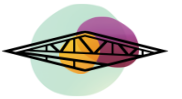
JCH
17/5/99





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يا محمد عبده الالهيم بحسب امر الوهاب قد رجعنا لراحم ومندلا
 الصداقة منا واعلمنا الكلي بانه ثم بشفقة الوهاب علينا ووقع
 انصاره وكيفية هياكلهم الاصلهم بالذي عندنا وطالبنا وهياكلهم
 على الوهاب ولا حاجه لتوارها تقر يفتنا سابقا كافي وباسم وثم يوم اللغاية
 عرفتم عن انبياءنا يتقدم للاستانه وهياكل مكانه حمدي سائت متجاوزتم
 حمدي سائت وصل والى على حمدي كعاد ومبا دانه لا مسبا عنانه لبلده طيبه
 هذه لغاهنا لغا وصنا به حمدي الوهاب انشاء ما قبلهم لغاهم لغاهم
 انشاء منهم ريشه عرفت نذوكم اخبار بني رشيد ابن رشيد امور
 مع لغاتير ما هي متفقه منه كلهم قاريين عليه ومنهون بالاراف
 ونهذ فله رجب ال تاد ريم باله ريم والمناق عليه كيش فكلهم
 واس اعلم انه قد خيفه ما هذ ن ريه حالي



00163



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00164

My beloved.

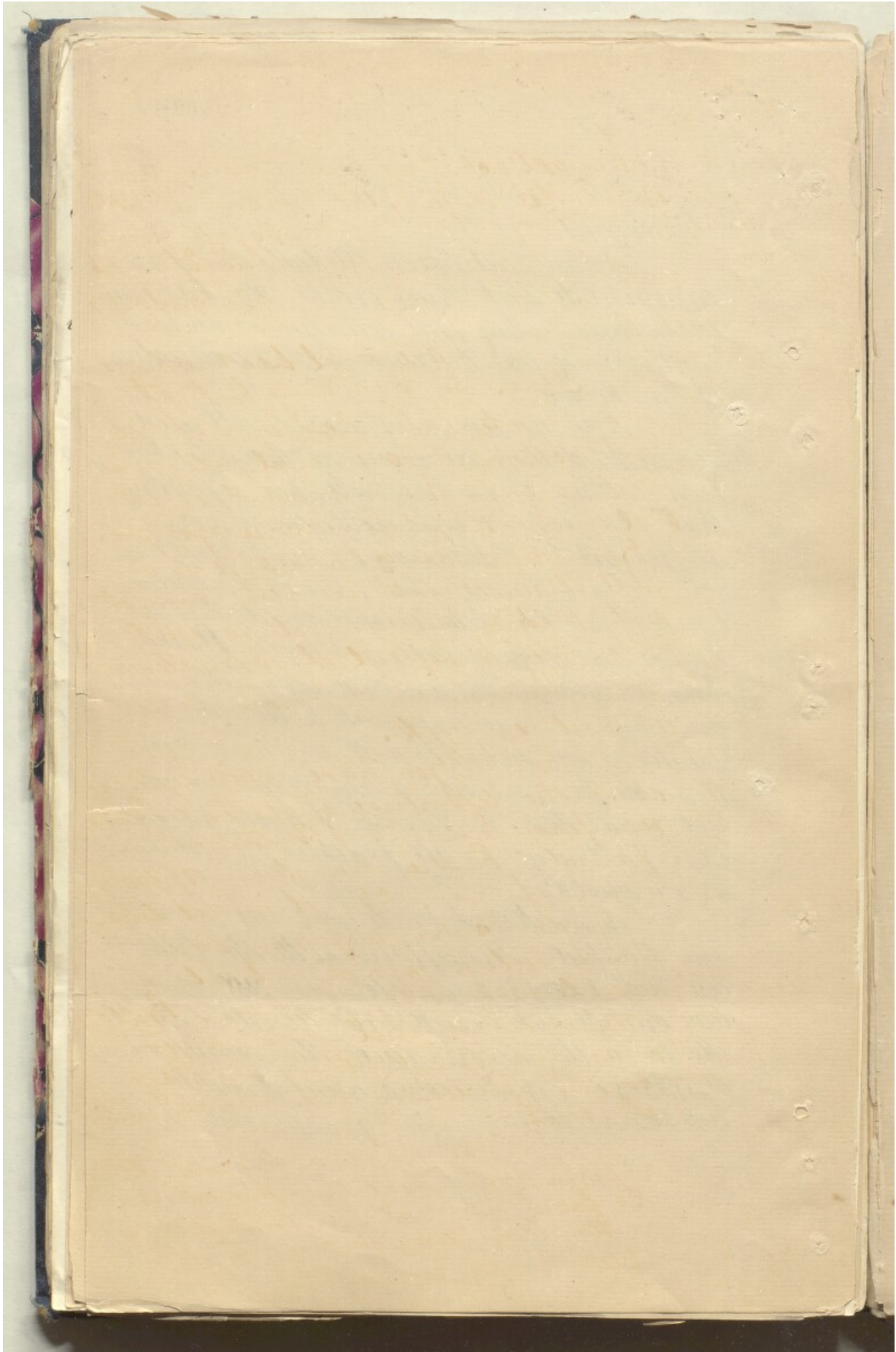
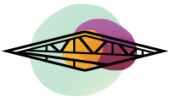
I have sent back Abdulla bin Ibrahim agreeable to that Man's orders. He has my instructions. My full reliance is in God and then in the wisdom and consideration of the Person.

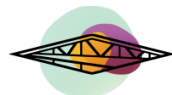
You are aware of my wants and desires and they are easy matters for the Man. There is no necessity for repeating them. My former representations are sufficient. Efficiency is with God & you

You wrote that Amin Pasha is leaving for Constantinople and Hamdi Pasha has relieved him. Hamdi Pasha has, as you stated, come as Wali as customary. It is apparent to me, he is treating my subjects well. Please God through the presence of the Man I shall not ruin them (i.e. Turks). I know, please God, their partridge is all feathers. (i.e. the Turks are unreliable).

You desired me to give you news of Bin Rashid. His affairs with the tribes are not prosperous. They are ~~all~~ up against him on all sides and raid his district. He is in the desert since the month of Rajab & is experiencing great trouble. God knows that his not prosperous.

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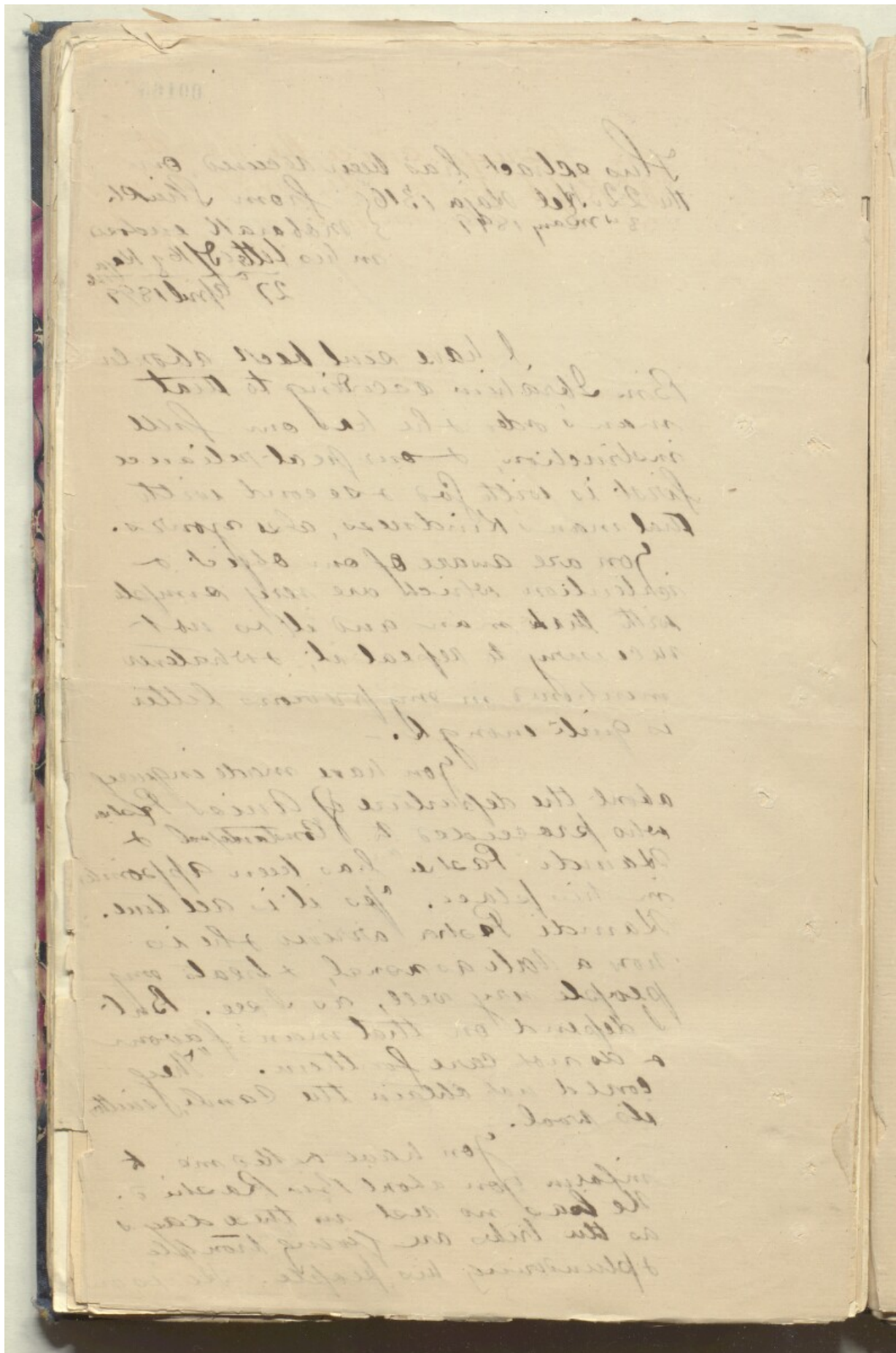
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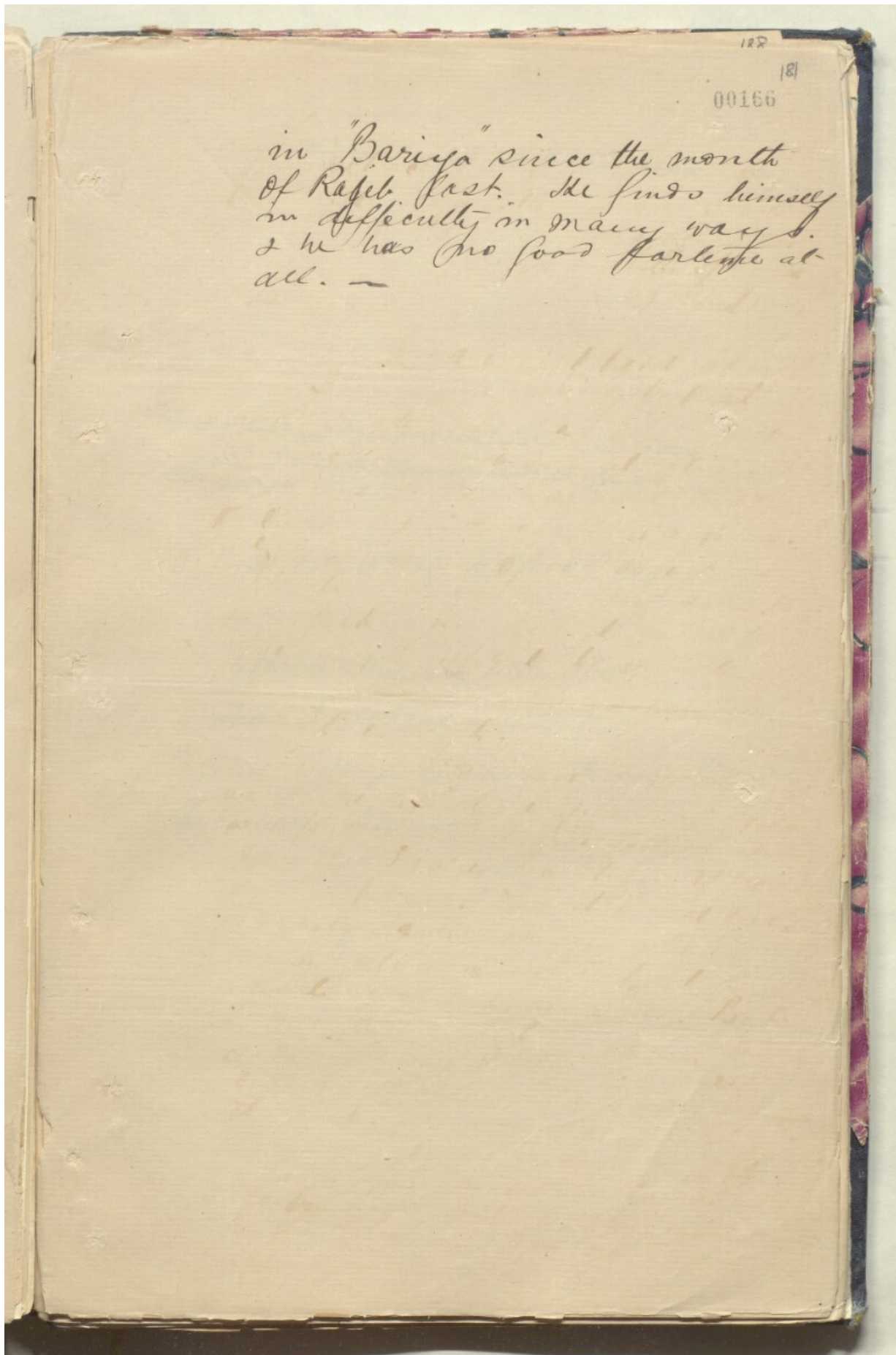
This extract has been received on
the 22nd Hel Haja 13165 from Sheikh
3rd May 1899 } Mobarak endras
in his letter of 16th Haja
27th April 1899

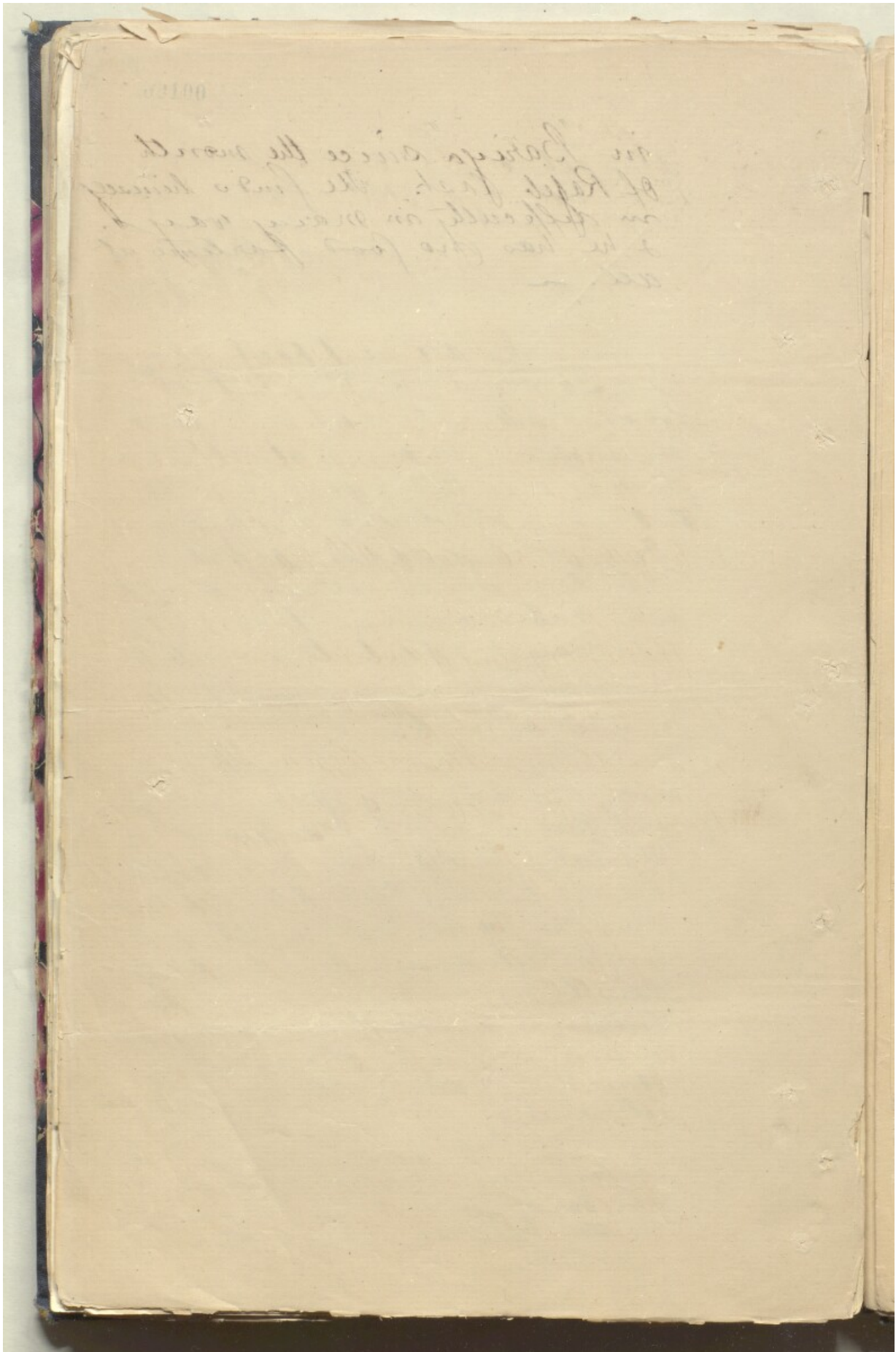
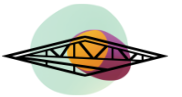
I have sent back about
Bin Ibrahim according to that
man's order & he has our full
instruction, & our great reliance
first is with God & second with
that man's kindness, also yours.
You are aware of our object &
intention which are very simple
with that man and it is not
necessary to repeat it; & whatever
mentioned in my previous letter
is quite enough.

You have made inquiry
about the departure of Aniss Pasha
who proceeds to Constantinople &
Hamdi Pasha has been appointed
in his place. Yes it is all true.
Hamdi Pasha arrived & he is
now a Wali as usual, & treats my
people very well, as I see. But
I depend on that man's favour
& do not care for them. They
could not obtain the Camel, neither
its wool.

You have asked me to
inform you about Bin Pasha.
He has no rest in these days
as the tribes are giving him
& plundering his people. He is in







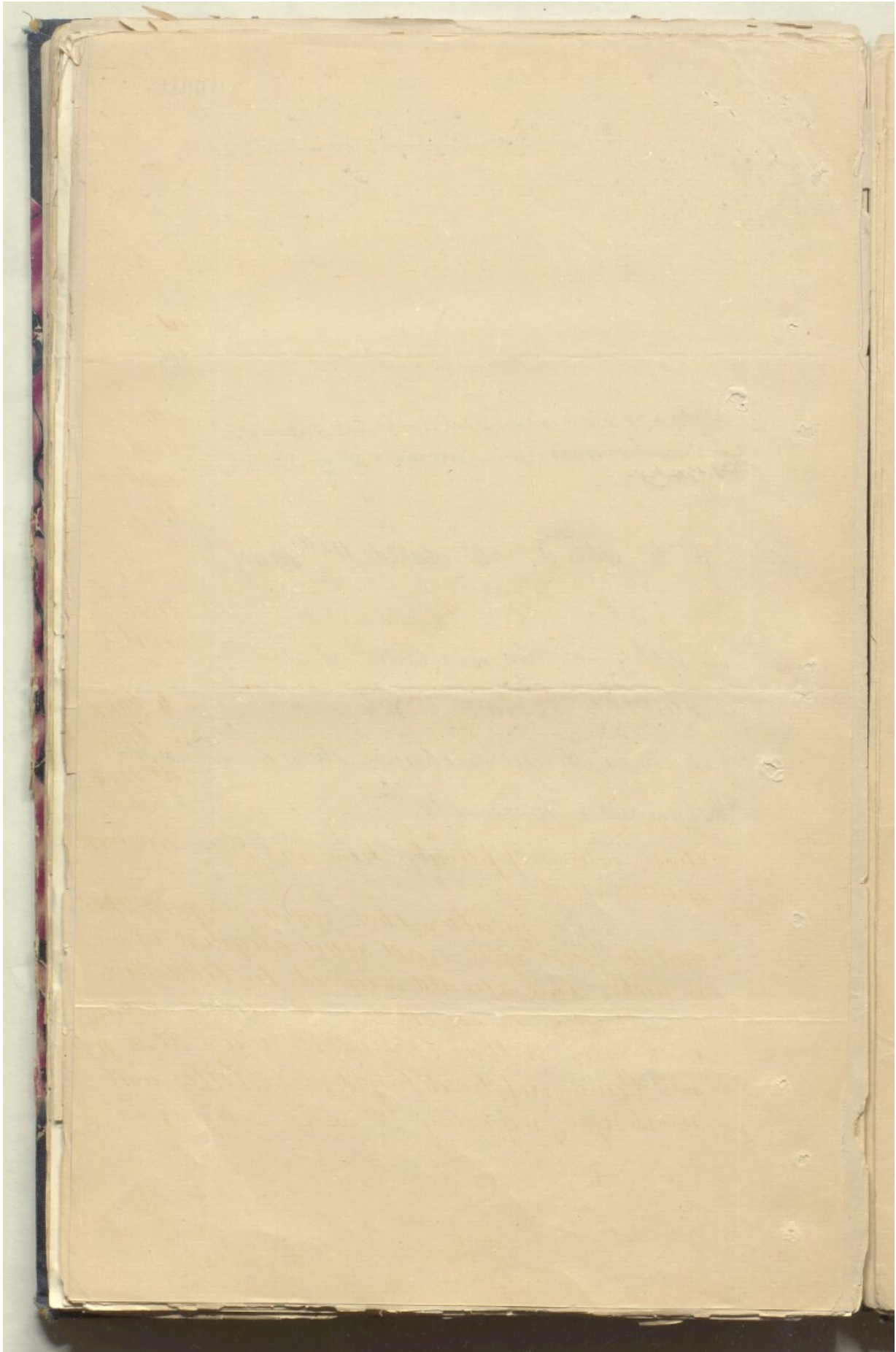
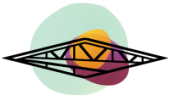
00167

باعتهم كتابا المذكور وصلنا كتاب من الصادق وبجوفه ورفه علمنا هم جميعا واصلي الخطه
لما لاحظون البيع الصحة وكعاقبه ودمتم المني ونحوه سبي وكذا

After writing my letter above
quoted I received a letter from the
friend, with an enclosure therein. They are
~~the~~ forwarded herewith.

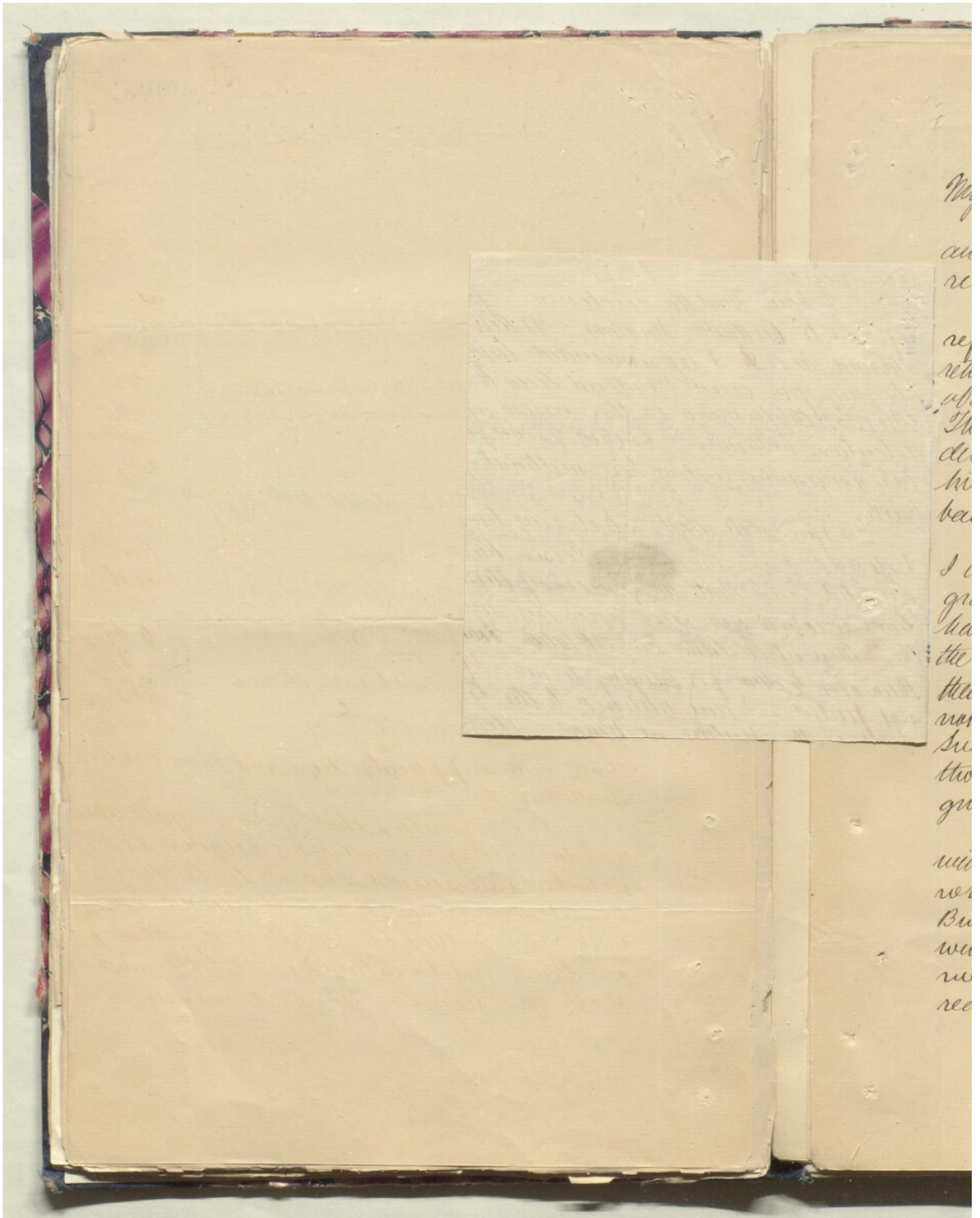
Saml. Wash. Ralston

1499.



0.0158

[illegible]





184
60169

My brother

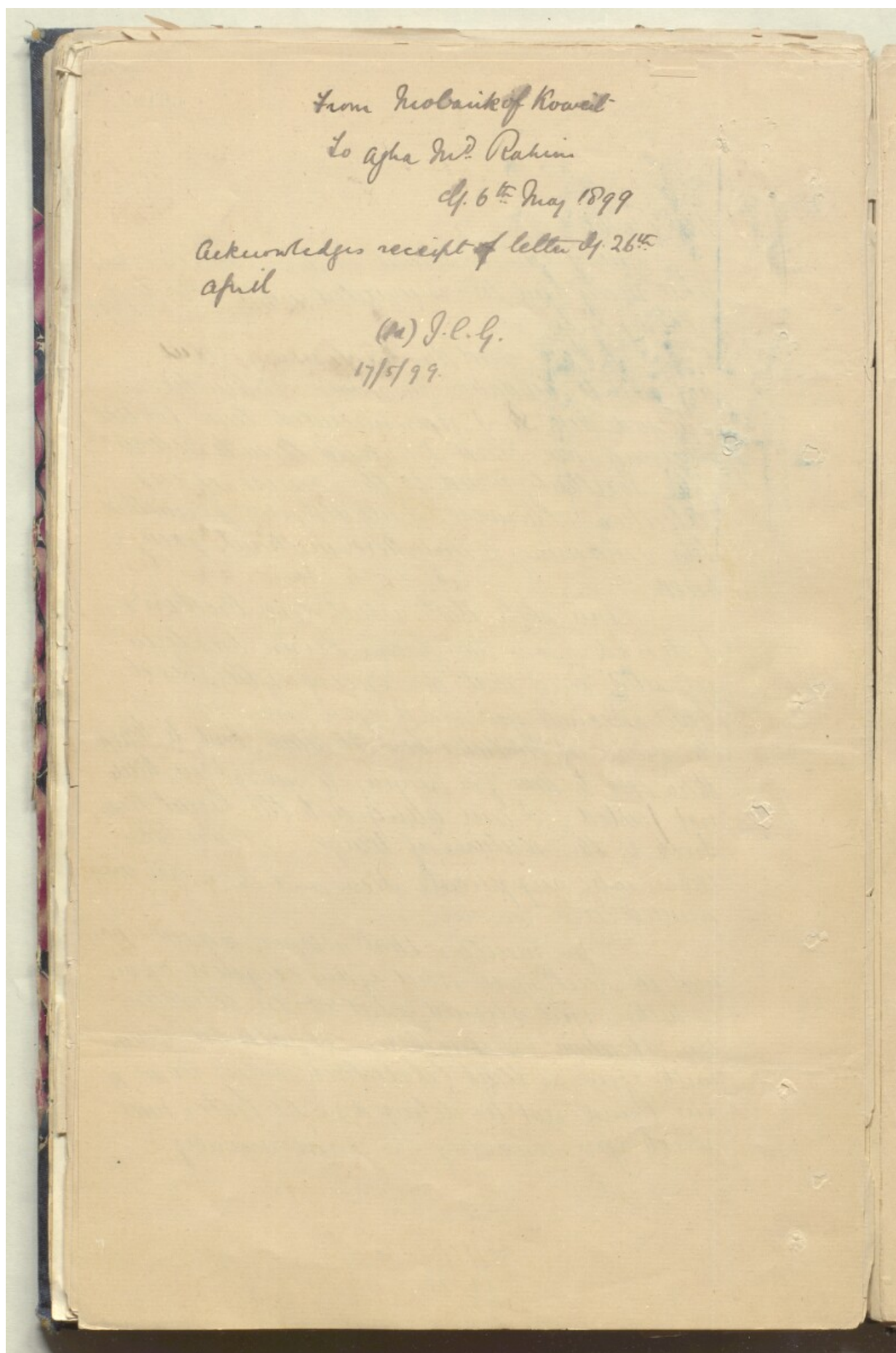
May you continue in the security of God
and may you be rewarded with the highest
recompense.

I have read the enclosure you
referred to Abdullah Ibrahim. When he
returned here I reprimanded him for not
obeying you and I ordered him to return.
The sore throat is the cause of his
detention otherwise I would not permitted
his remaining a day here without going
back.

You state that what my brothers &
I desired from the Great Person has been
granted and that the orders of the Govt.
have reached you and you are waiting
the return of Abdullah bin Ibrahim to hand
them over to him for bringing to me. You have
not failed. I am obliged to the Great Person.
Such is the nature of Kings. Please God
those who supplicate Him and then are well
guided and gainers.

You mention that money agreed upon
will be sent to you and you enquire of me
whether you should send it by Abdullah
bin Ibrahim or another. It should remain
with you so that Abdullah may come to
me (and not be delayed). A letter will
reach you regarding the said money.

11
17/99



يا محب جديتم عنا افضل اجزا انتم على لصله وذلکم من عطف
البراهیم لما وصل طرنا انی لوفنا لعدم امثال اولکم ورجعنا لکم و
نأخذ من صناد الیهادوسى والا کانه ما بقینا الا یوم ورجع
وعرفتم انه الذی ردناه من الوہاب البیض لصل کلما کان مطلقا
وللاضواء وانه لا وار وصله الیہم وفضل فی عہد البراہیم تسلسلها
وایحییہا لنا بنہایہم ما قصرتم والوہاب البیض انما مشکری لہ
هكذا ثانیہ الملوک فانما من لا ذ بالہم ثم یہم یکنہ ویفوز
وعرفتم انی المبلغ المعلوم لصل صلاتہم ورا یفوزنا ہل یسئل لصلہ
البراہیم او غیر الا انہ المبلغ المعلوم یفوز عند بنہایہم صنادہ لصل
عہد البراہیم لطفنا وایحییہم فنا المرفوع عن المبلغ المذکور وجمہ



From Probant of Koweit

To agha Mr. Rahim

dy. 6th May 1899

Acknowledges receipt of letter dy. 26th
April

(M) J. L. G.

17/5/99.

W. H.
Please send
these 2 letters
put them in
box with the
Koweit file
You leave -
W. H.
8/5



Confidential

N^o 207 of 1899.

19 May 1899.

The Commander
R.M.S. Lawrence.

Sir

I have the honour to inform you that in addition to the specie going to Bombay you will receive 3 boxes containing Govt. Rs 15,000 to be handed over to the Residency Agent at Bahrein and I request therefore that you will be good enough to receive the same on board and to call on your voyage at Bahrein and deliver the boxes to Alpha Mook. Bahrein Residency Agent there, taking a receipt in duplicate from him for transmission to this Office.

2. The Boxes containing

These 2 letters
put them
Send with the
file at
Koweit file at
you leave
8/5



This money will come on
board along with the
rest, and will not be
noticed: but at Bahrain
I hope you will endeavor
to get them landed and
handed over to the Agent
as quietly as you can. It
is important that the
transaction should if
possible be kept secret.

I have &c

W. S. L.

Act. Resident
P. Gulf.

104
1899
5



Confidential

188 9
187
00172

N^o 134 1899

10th May 1899

The Residency Agent
Bahrein

Sir,

I have received
your letter brought
over by Captain Pritham,
forwarding the communications
you have received from
our friend and have
read their purport

In compliance with
our friend's wishes
regarding the sum
agreed upon I have
to inform you that
I am sending to you
in charge of the
Commander of the
R I M. Lawrence
3 Boats containing
Rs 15,000. to be dealt
with in any manner



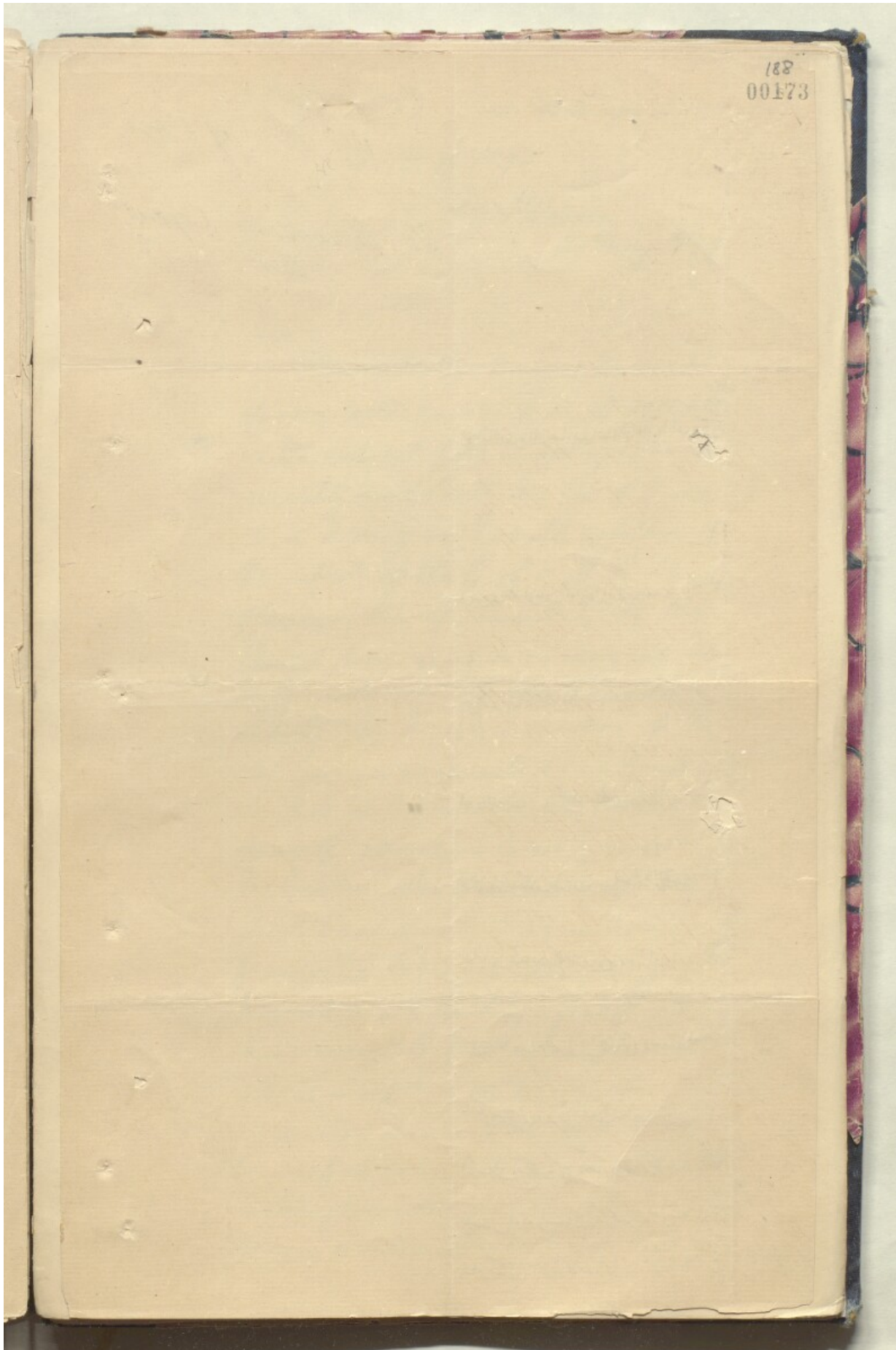
you may be instructed
by our friend.

On the arrival of
the R.I.M.S. Lawrence
please arrange to
take charge of the
said money and
remove it from the
vessel as secretly as
possible without letting
any one know as to
what it is or for what
purpose it is sent to
you.

You are to give the
Commander of the
R.I.M.S. Lawrence a
receipt in duplicate
for the same & at the
same ^{time} report to me
of its safe arrival
and subsequent
disposal.

Wm
Pol. Resident
P. Gulf

Wm
1899



وعنه كيفية انجازه هذا المخرج في ٩ محرم ١٣١٧



Confidential

To Foreign

189
00174

No: 70 of 1899.

Dr. Bushire

21 May 1899.

Sir,

I have the h: to ask: the receipt
of your letter no: 631. E. A. d. 29/4/99.
On the subject of the Secret agreement
recently made with the Sh: of Koweit
& in doing so, I would explain, for
the infmⁿ of the G. of D. that the
Clause in the agreement by wh: the
Sheikh promises not to receive the
representatives of other Powers,
without the previous sanction of the
Br: Govt., was inserted, as I understood
such to be the wish of Sh: Mubarak
himself, conveyed to me by my asst.
Mr Gaskin, who told me that the
Sh: did not want to have Agents
from other Powers, residing at
Koweit & w^d gladly agree to refuse
his consent to such arrangements
without a ref^e to the Br: Govt.

2. As a clause to this effect w^d
be useful later on & seemed calculated
to strengthen our position at Koweit
& as a similar proviso had been



inserted in the agreement of the
22nd Dec: 1880 with Sh: Isa of
Bahrein (v: agreement no: XXXI
Ait: Treaties Vol: X p. 120) when
the Bahrein Sh: agreed to refuse
permission to any other Govt than
the British to establish Diplomatic
or Consular Agencies in his territory,
unless with the consent of the
Br: Govt., I thought that the
opportunity was a good one to obtain
a similar promise from Sh: Subaiah,
as he himself wished to give it.

3. I do not think the promise
is likely to give rise to any trouble
as the Sh: will tell the Turks, if
they propose sending an Agent to
Koweit, that he would prefer
not to have one, & he will, probably,
be able to prevent the appointment
being made without any sort of
reference to the stipulation in
the agreement with us. In the
meantime, your instructions
will be carefully attended to, &
any information indicating that
the Porte, or any other Power,
wishes to send an Agent to
Koweit, will be communicated
to you without delay. No action,



too, will be taken in the
matter without your instructions.

0017390
4. As Sh. Inobarak wishes
the money we agreed to pay him
sent via Bahrein, it will be
taken there by the "Laurence"
which leaves this for B'bay on the
20th instant & will be left, either
with the Sheikh's agent or, if he
has not yet returned to Bahrein,
with the Residency agent, who
will, in due course, make it over
to the Sh.'s representative. I
w^d request your instructions
as to how this payment is to be
shown in the accounts of the
Bahrain Treasury & w^d suggest
that it should appear as a secret
service payment. The C.I.T. had
better perhaps be informed that
the money was paid under the
orders of the G. of I.

5. Mr Macdonall, V.C. at
M'rah, informs me that
there is no probability of any
Turkish movement being
made, at present, aft. Kuwait
& he thinks that the rumours
on the subject, which have



been current of late, have no real foundation, but merely represent what people expect will happen. "Every one" he writes "believes that the Turks will" "move against Koweit some day".

Nothing tangible, too, is, I believe, known as to the Sh.'s negotiations with ourselves: but there seems to be a general impression that he has been endeavouring to obtain our protection & that we have not been averse to receiving his advances.

6. From information I have recently received, I am inclined to think that Sh. Inbarak has not received any formal recognition fr: the Sultan or the title of "Kaimi Mukkam" as mentioned in Mr Wratishlaw's letter to the Ambassador at Constantinople no 23 d. 3rd May a copy of wh: accompanied my letter to you no. 62 d. 14th inst. I am enquiring from Mr Wratishlaw how he obtained his information on the subject & will ask him to verify its correctness. I have
19/5/99 (Ed) H. J. Meade



00176 191

Urgent
 7-A.
 Please put up the
 file - we must know
 telegraph at once for
 orders as to how we
 show payment.

No 52. ^{mix put up with}
^{file to E.A. 24/5/99}
^{submit to R. 24/5/99}

R. I. M. S. Lawrence
 Bahrain 22nd May 1899

The Officer Commanding
 R. I. M. S. Lawrence
 24/5

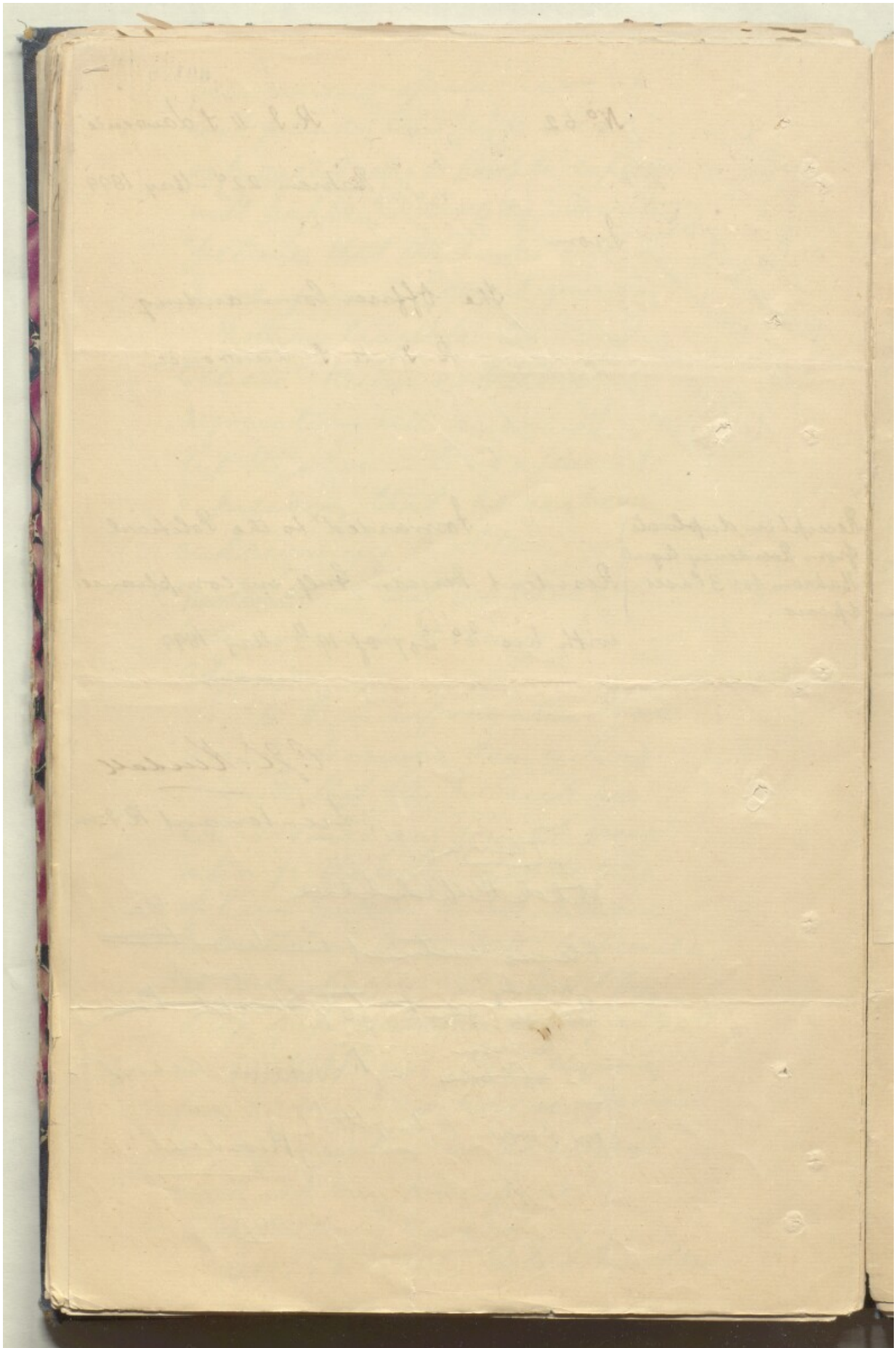
*
 Receipt in duplicate
 from Residency Agent
 Bahrain for 3 cases
 specie.

Forwarded* to the Political
 Resident Persian Gulf, in compliance
 with his No 207 of 19th May 1899.

C. H. Kendall
 Lieutenant R. & M.

Foreign
 It has been asked
 Please instruct me how ^{the} ~~the~~
^{money} ~~has~~ sent to ^{Koweit} ~~Shirah~~
^{be shown} ~~SD~~ appear in ^{our} ~~our~~ accounts
 for current month - Resident

24/5



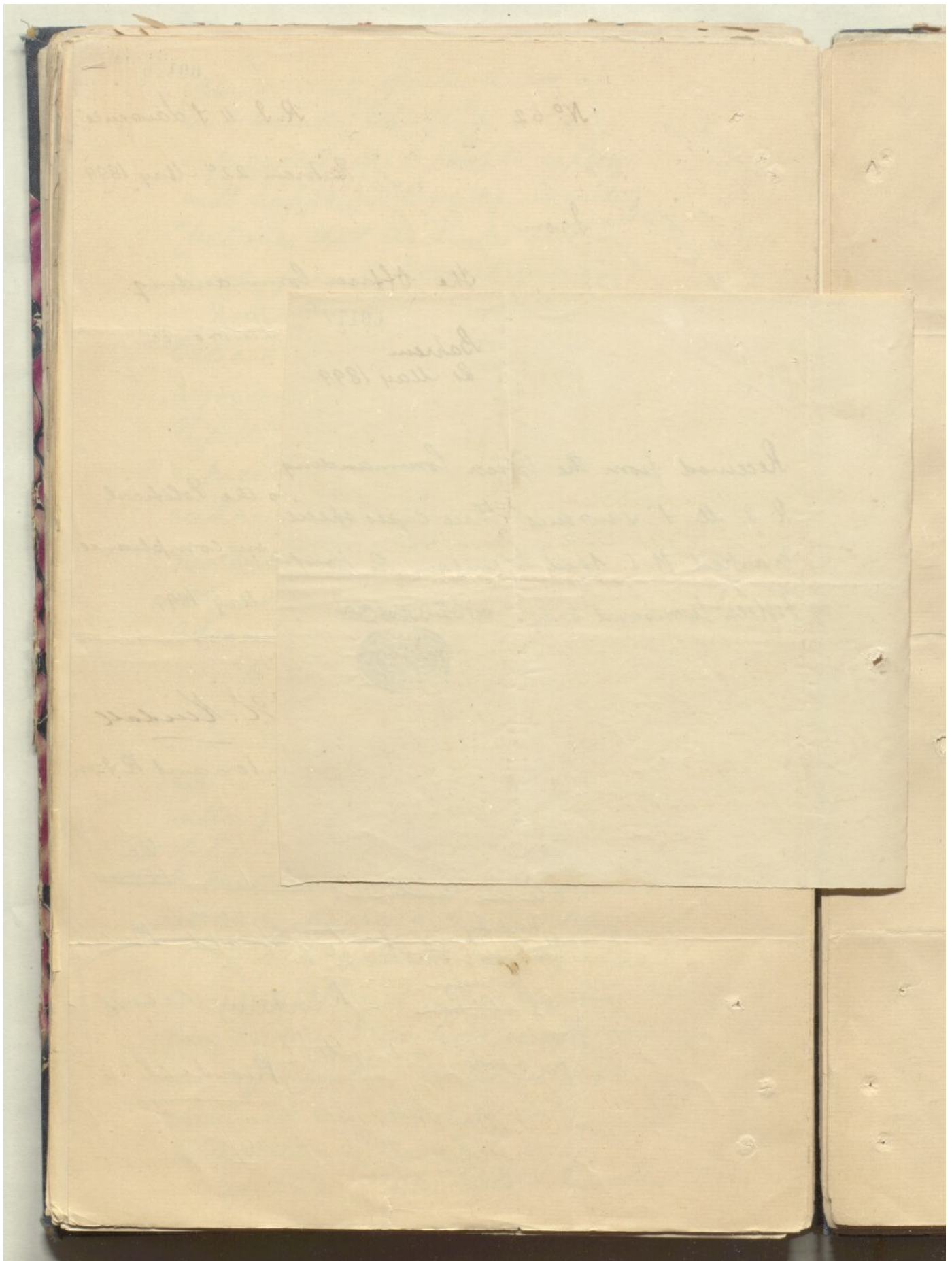


Original

6017/92
Bahrein
21 May 1899

Received from the Officer Commanding
R. I. M. S. "Lawrence" three cases specie
marked M. S. said to contain Rs 15000/-
fifteen thousand only - *m. s. Lawrence*







193

00178

الحبر

من المحرم
الذي فيه
التي فيه
التي فيه

من المحرم ١٨٩٩

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاحلال الاكرم الصالحين الكرام مديا ابوز وفوز

دام مجاه آيين بعدك الام وسؤال عن صحة ذانكم العلية لازلم في خبر وعافيه ورفي
ابرك الاوقات واشرف الساعات نشرفت بكتابكم ساشي الاشهر المورث في محرم ١٣١٧
مطابق في ١٨٩٩ له وما عرفت فقل التخي مخصوص عرسول سعادتم في مركب الارنس
صحبته على الجاه كما نذر له وله جميعه القيصرة الانكليسي لانه صناديق صروفها مبلغ خمسة
الف روبه سكه امرته ان اعل اقدم لتحويل المبلغ المذكور ونقلها من الوكب باسمها يمكن دخول
قبضه للوصول الى الكماندر المذكور فلا يخاف سعادتم ان الكماندر بنفسه نزل المبلغ الزبوي
وسلمه بيد محكم ونفهم ايضا حرر القيصرة بكتبة الانكليسي ومحكم تحفه ومهرهم وسلمهم
اليه كذلك امرنا نعل بالمبلغ الزبور بايه نوع ليصل لنا من الصديق فلا باس
لا بد من يتوجه لذكالك الطرف لهذا الغوب لعرفه عن وصول ذالك وتفسيره
المراد به باي نوع ليوصل اليه ذالك ونمثل امره في لغرض ذالك لسعادتم هذا ما لم عرضه
ورمهم محوسين ولا لم حرم في محرم ١٣١٧ مطابق في ١٨٩٩ له صمى محرم ١٢٩٩

no 62

22nd May 99

From Residency Agent

To Resident

Yr. I have received your letter N^o 134
dated 14th May 11. Note your wrote is
understood. Regarding your despatching
by the P. J. M. S. Lawrence in charge of
the Comandante 3 Cases containing
Rs 15000. you ordered me to arrange



their removal as secretly as possible
from the vessel and to give the
Commander two receipts for the
same.

Let it be known to you that
the Commander himself landed
the money and wrote the receipts
for the same in English which I
signed and sealed and returned to
him.

You also ordered that I am to deal
with the money in the manner I
may be instructed by the friend.

I will write to him about the
arrival of the same, by any person
who may be going to Koweit, and will
ask him in what way he wishes the
money should be sent to him and
I will obey his wishes and will
inform you of the same.

(Sgt) Mohd. Rahim Pasha

JCH
24/5/99



Resident

I believe you have wired
to Foreign. This can be filed?

25/5/99

File under
25/5



Telegram dt. 25. May. 1899.

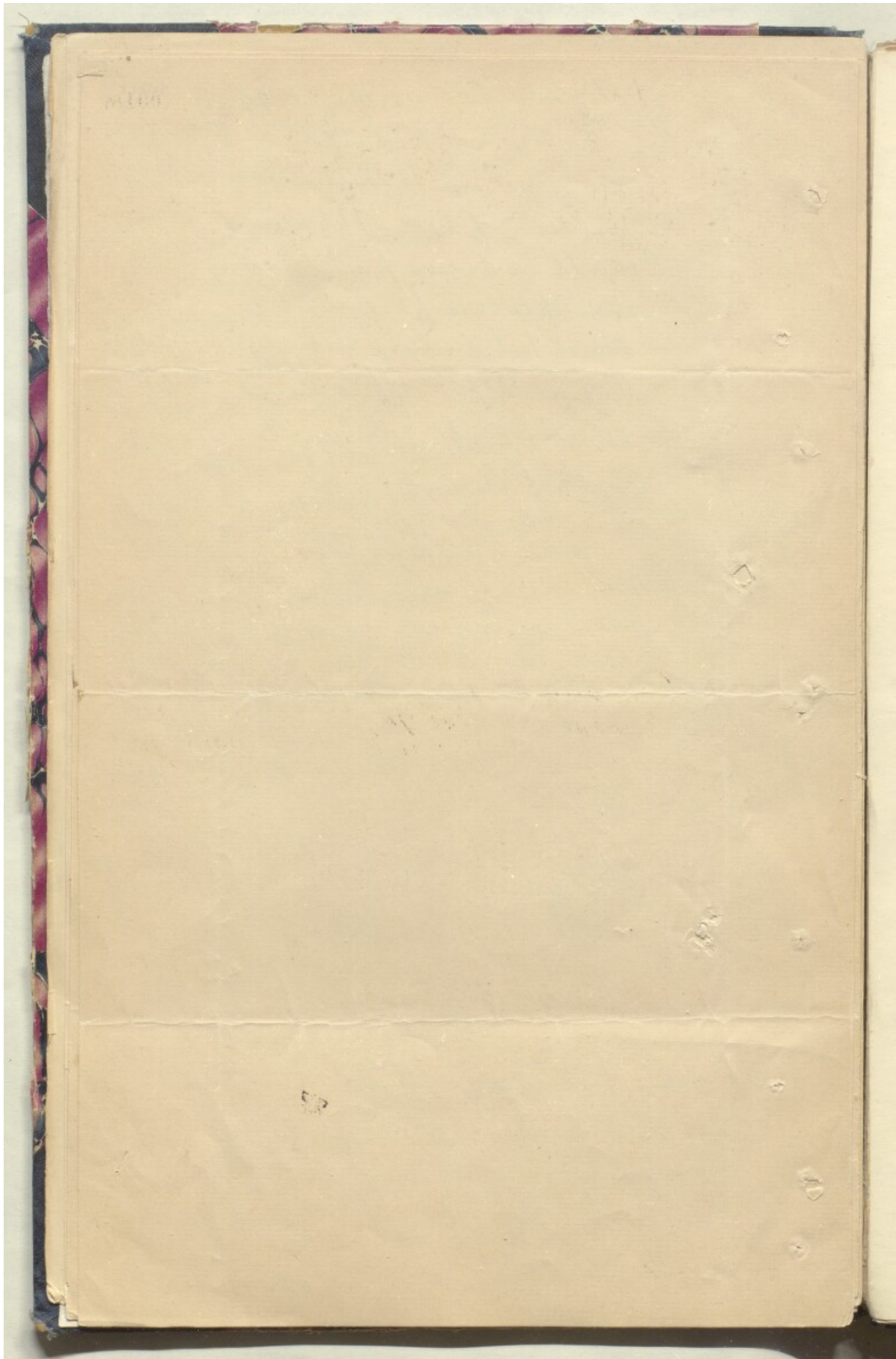
194
00179

Fr: Simla

To Musine

Your tel^m of 24th. The money
should be drawn from Treasury
on simple receipt giving no
detail but quoting merely
Foreign Depth office memo:
no: 752. E. dt. 25th May to
Dept. of Finance

Foreign





195
00180

Confidential

No 240 of 1899

Bushire, 30th May 1899

To

H B. M's Consul
Busreh

Sir

With reference to
your letter No 23 dated the
3rd instant to the address
of the Ambassador at
Constantinople, I have the
honour to request you
will kindly let me
know how you obtained
your information that
Sheikh Mobarak has
received formal recognition
from the Sultan and been
given the title of Kaim
Makam.

2. I did not know that
formal



formal recognition and
appointment as Deputy
Governor had been carried
out as regards Mubarik
and as other information
I have does not point to
it, I shall be obliged
if you will kindly
verify its correctness as
far as you can and
let me know the result

I have &c.

W.H.

Resident &c

W.H.
29/5/99



196
60151

Telegram dated 25th May 1899
From Foreign Simla
To Resident
Bushire

Your telegram of 24th The money
should be drawn from Treasury
on Simple receipt giving no details
but quoting merely Foreign Department
office memorandum number 752 E.A.
dated 25th May to Department of
Finance and Commerce.

Confidential

N^o 227 of 1899

British Residency & Consulate General
Bushire, 25th May 1899

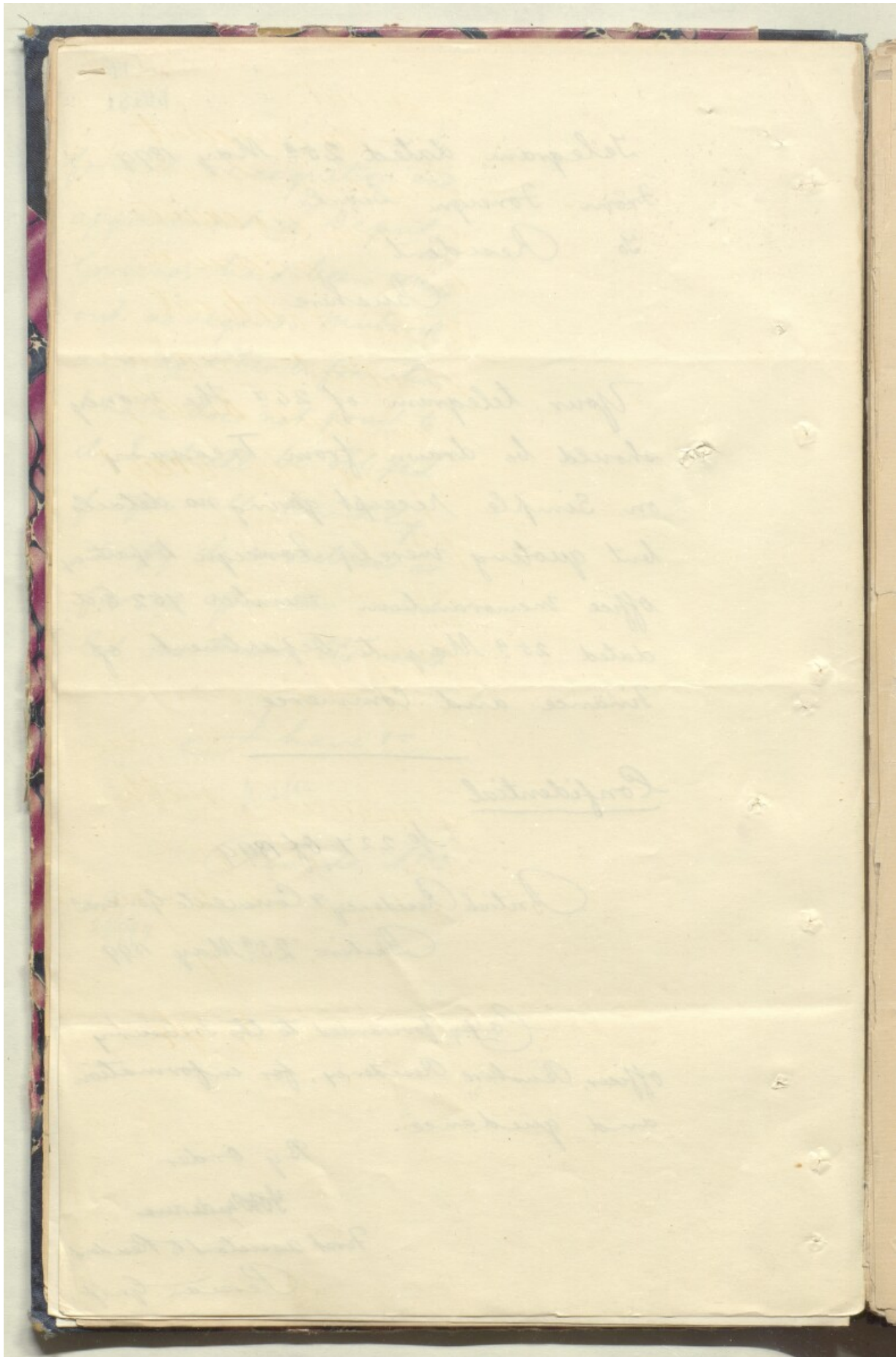
Copy forwarded to the Treasury
officer, Bushire Residency, for information
and guidance.

By order

H. H. H. H.

First Assistant to Resident

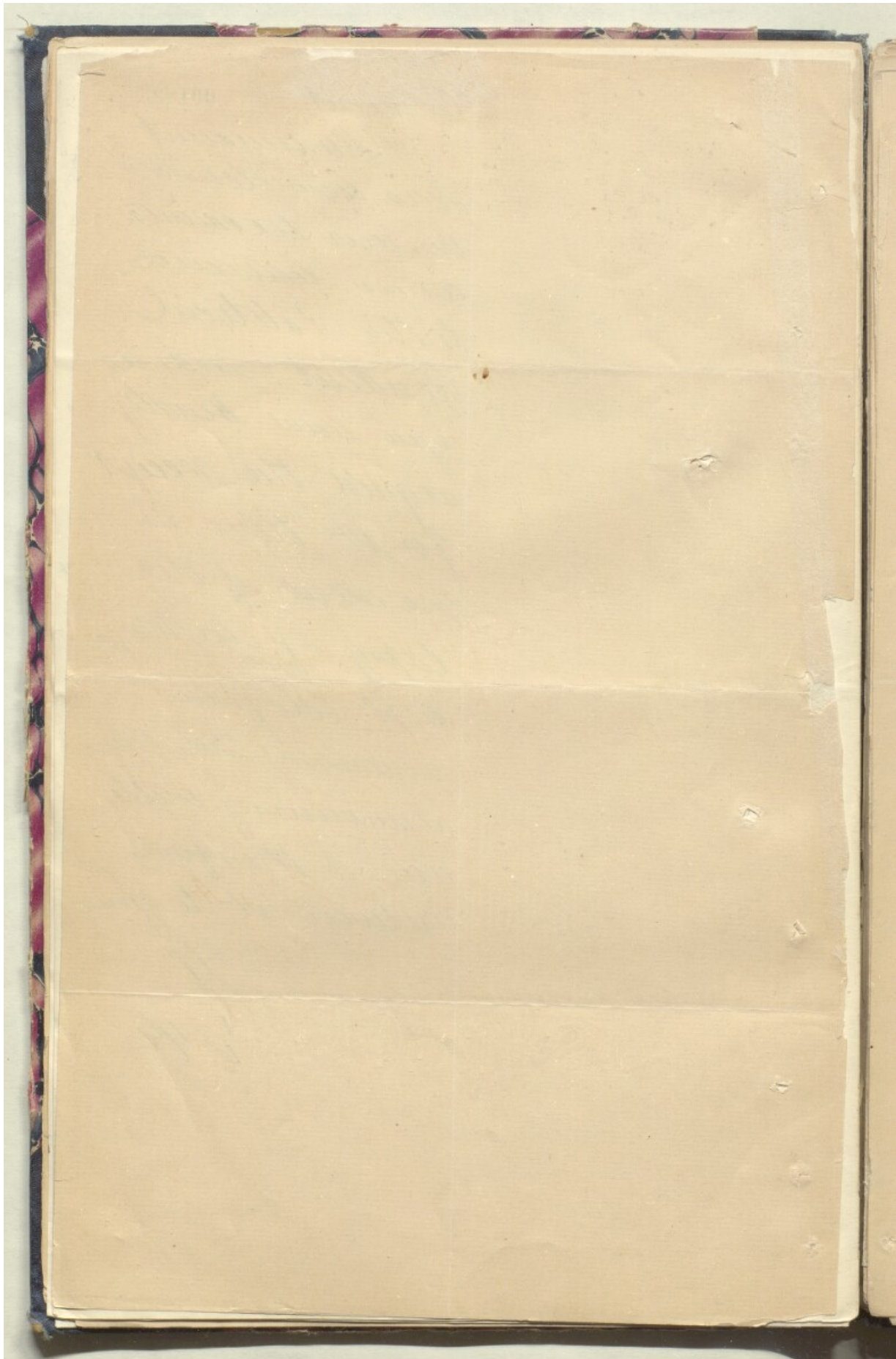
Persian Gulf

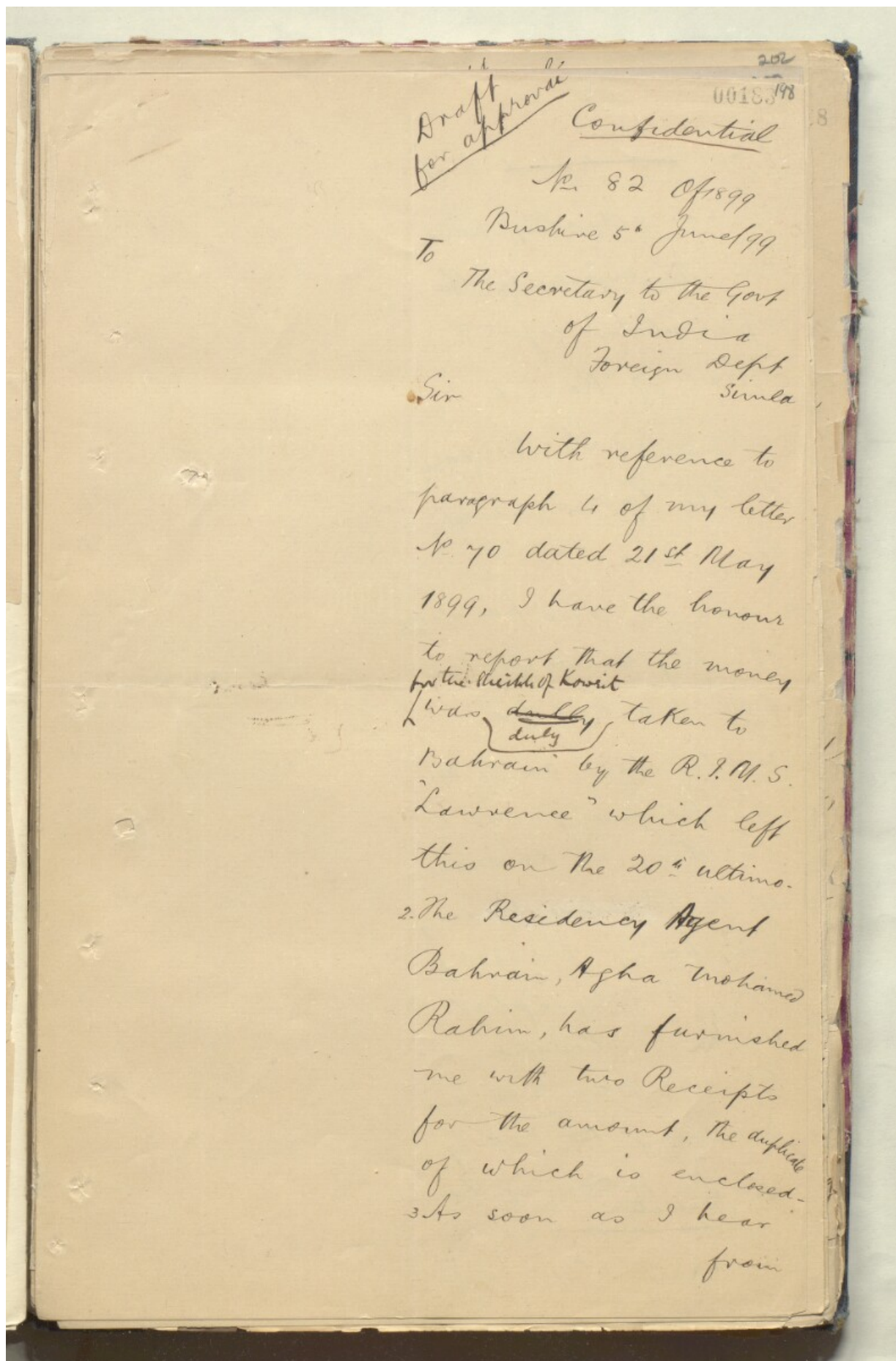




Resident 00182
The amount
has been debited
in our accounts
as an advance
to the Political
Resident and as
you have kindly
signed the receipt
for it there is
no need of the
copy of the Foreign
Dept. telegram
regarding the same
remaining with
me I therefore
return it to you.

JLL
1/6/99

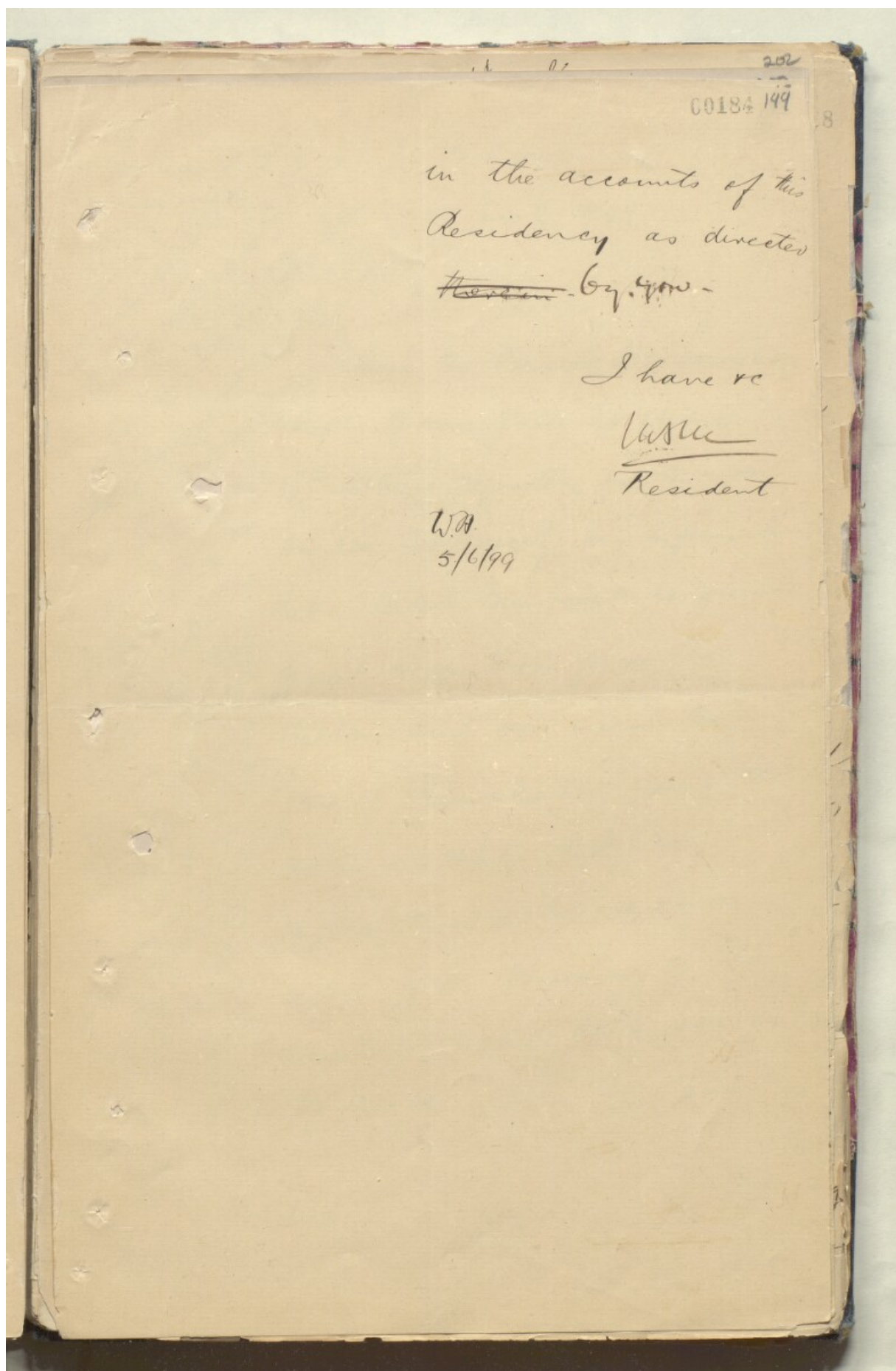


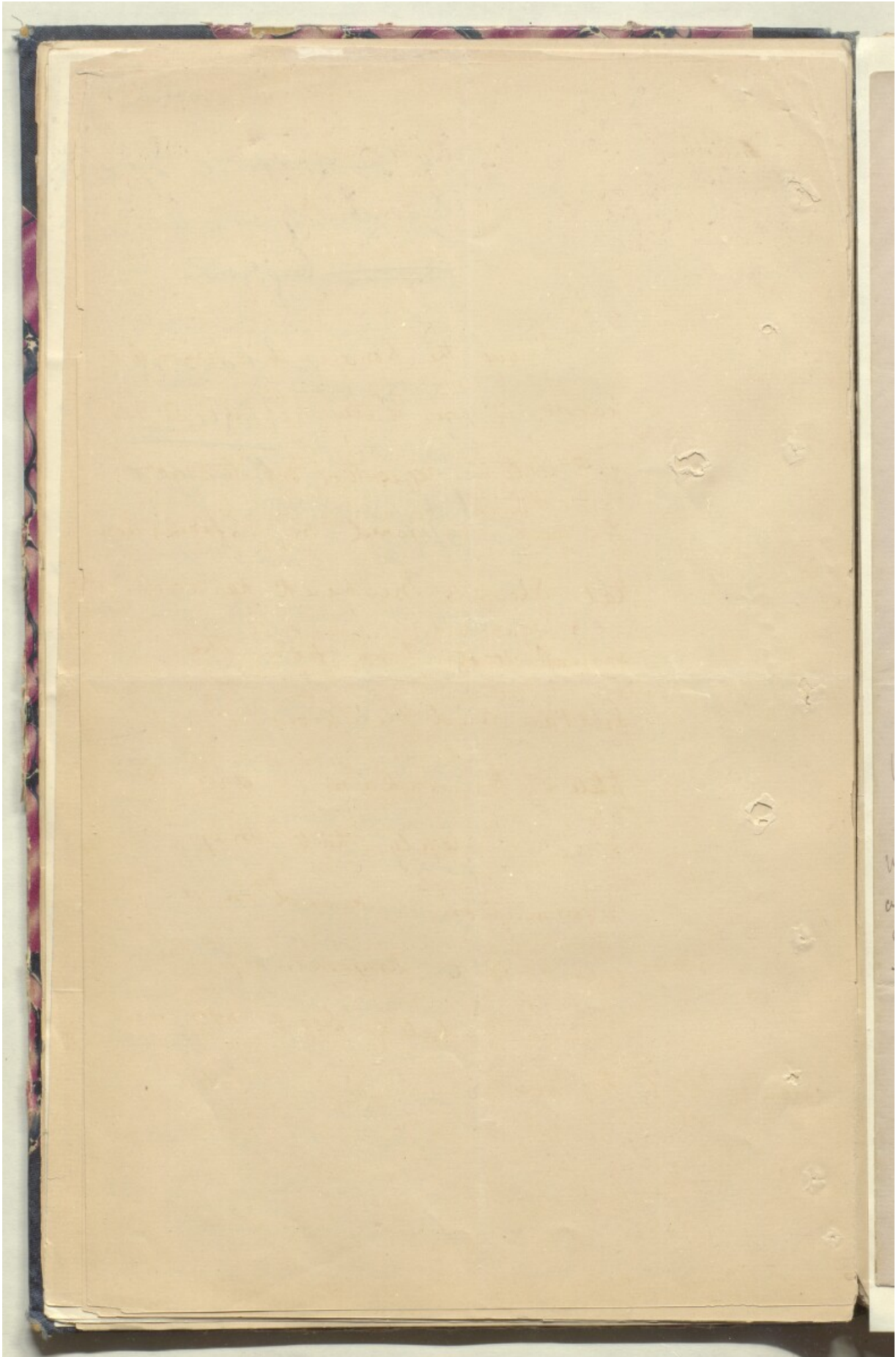




from ^{him} ~~our agent~~ that
he has actually paid
over the money to the
representative of the
Sheikh of Koweit, I
will intimate the same
to the Government
of India.

4. In the same paragraph
of my above quoted
letter, I asked for
instructions as to how
this payment was to
be shewn in the accounts
of the Bushire Treasury
but being pressed for
time, I telegraphed
for ^{the} ~~the~~ instructions on
the 24th May, and on
receiving ^{your} ~~the~~ reply
on the following day,
the ^{transaction} ~~amount~~ was shewn
in







Confidential

Bussorah

June 2. 1899.

H.C.
Please look up P.P. & note if
there is any record of the information
contained in this letter having
been communicated to Sir.

I have the honour to acknowledge
receipt of your letter no: 240 of the
30th ultimo requesting me to inform
you how I obtained my information
that Sheikh Mubarek has received
formal recognition from the
Sultan and been given the
title of Kaimakam, and to
state in reply that my
information is based on a
report of the Doyoman of this
Consulate, dated Dec. 8. 1897 and
filed
Lien. Col. M. Keade

Bushire

R



filed in my archives, which is
to the following effect; "A telegraphic
communication was received by
Mushiri Pasha (then Acting Vali)
four or five days ago from the
Sublime Porte stating that an
Imperial Hade' had been issued
sanctioning the appointment
of Sheikh Mubarek el Sabah
as Official Kaimakam for
Koweit." Further, Mubarek's
name is given as Kaimakam of
Koweit in the official Salname
(almanach) of the Vilayet of
Bassorah amongst the other
Government functionaries of
the



00186²⁰¹

Belapt, his letters from the
Turkish Authorities are addressed
to him as Haimakam, and he
receives 150 Kares of dates per
annum from the Turkish Government
in lieu of salary, as did his
predecessors.

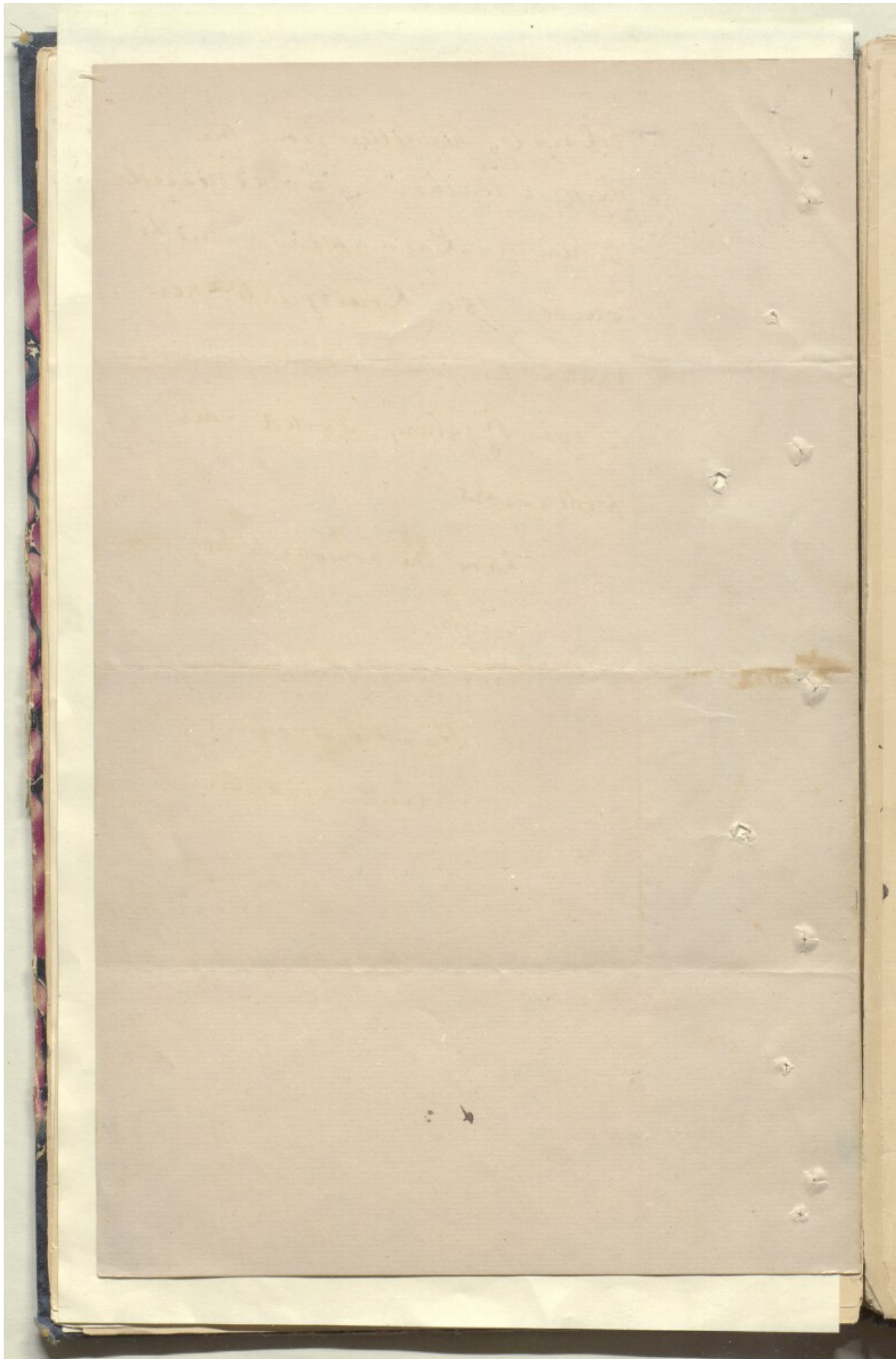
I have the honour to be,

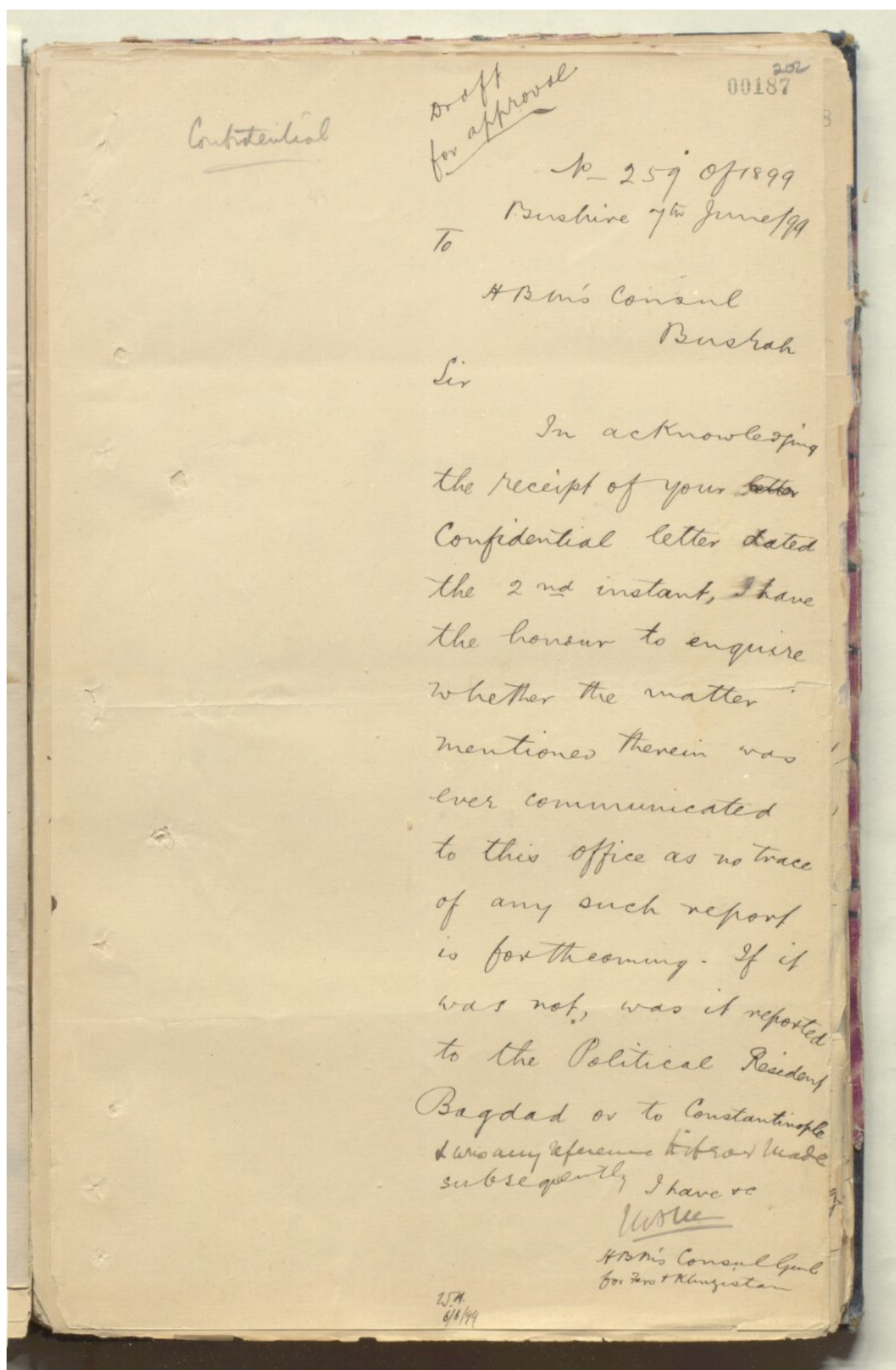
Sir,

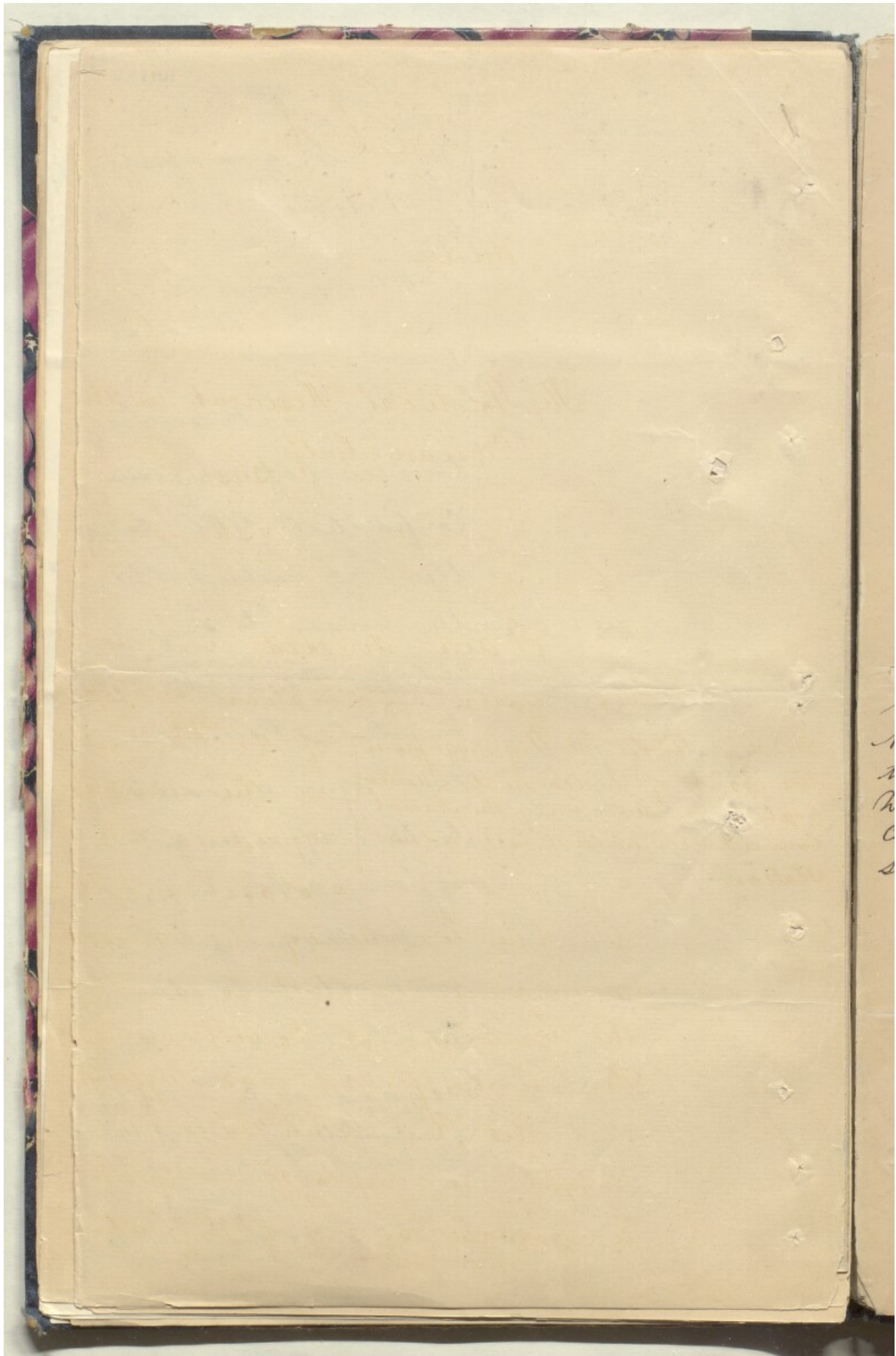
Your most obedient,

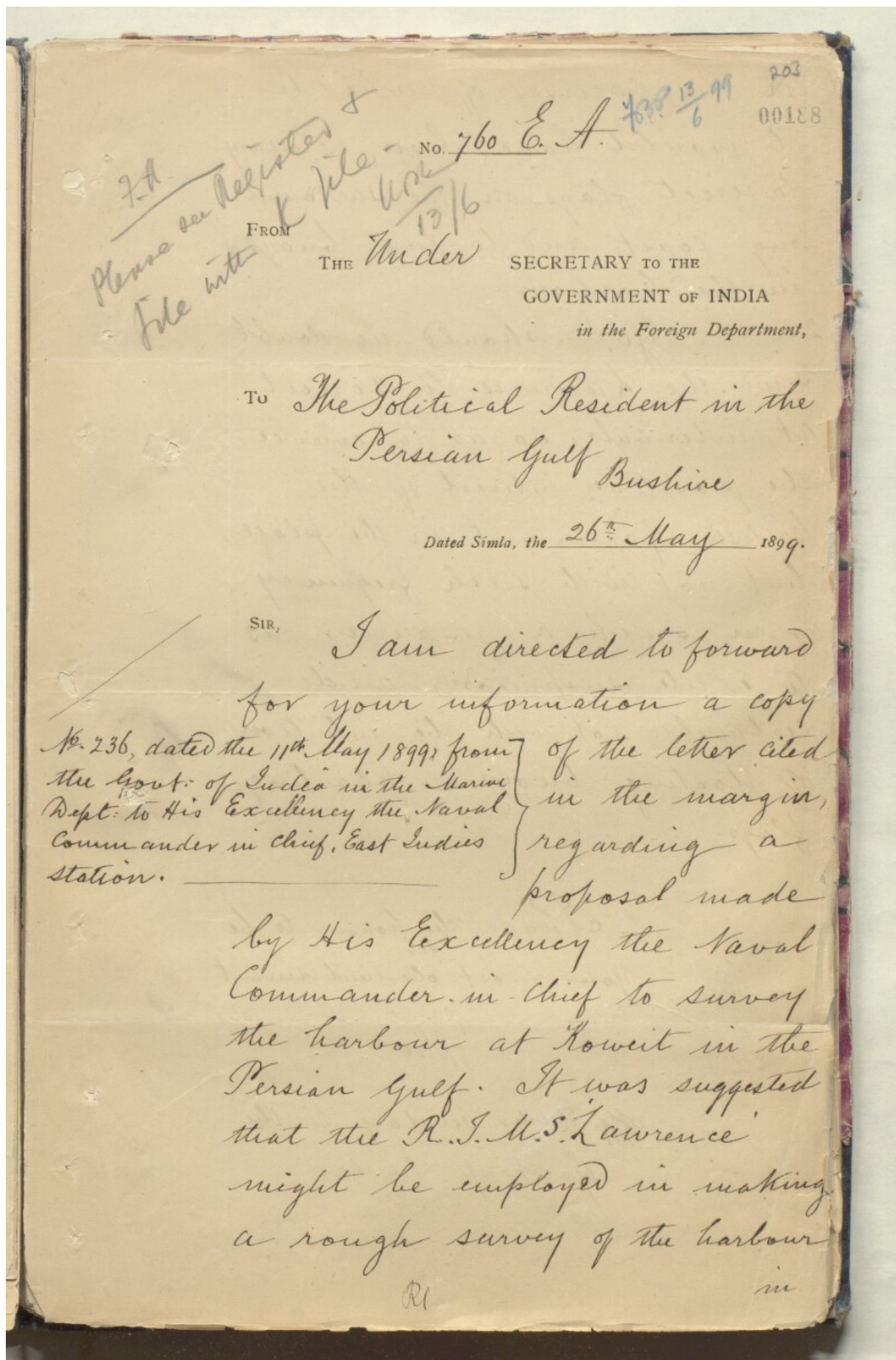
Humble servant;

A. C. Kratslaw











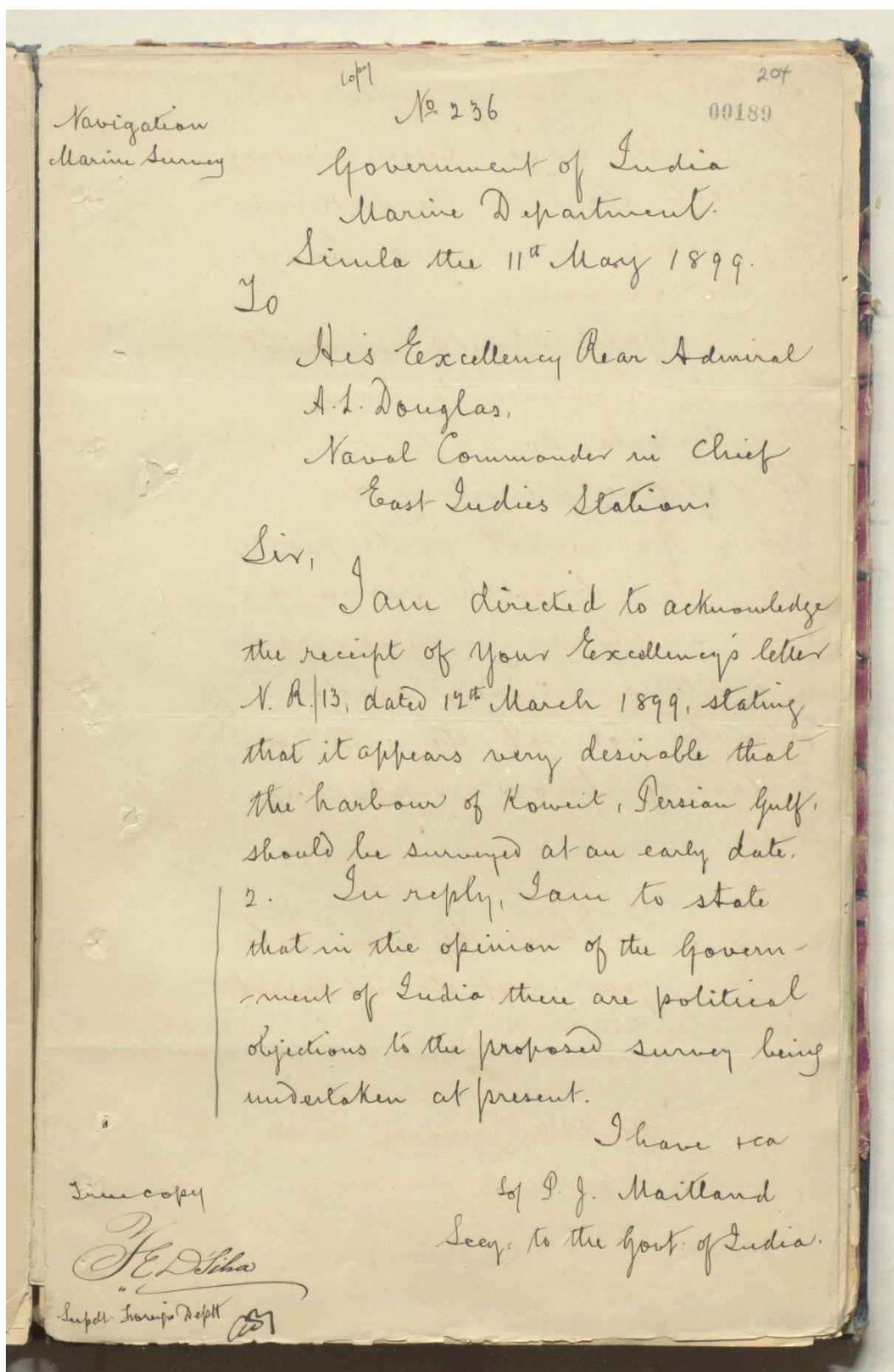
in the course of which
it would have been necessary
to erect flags on the surround-
ing coast, and to lay buoys
in the harbour.

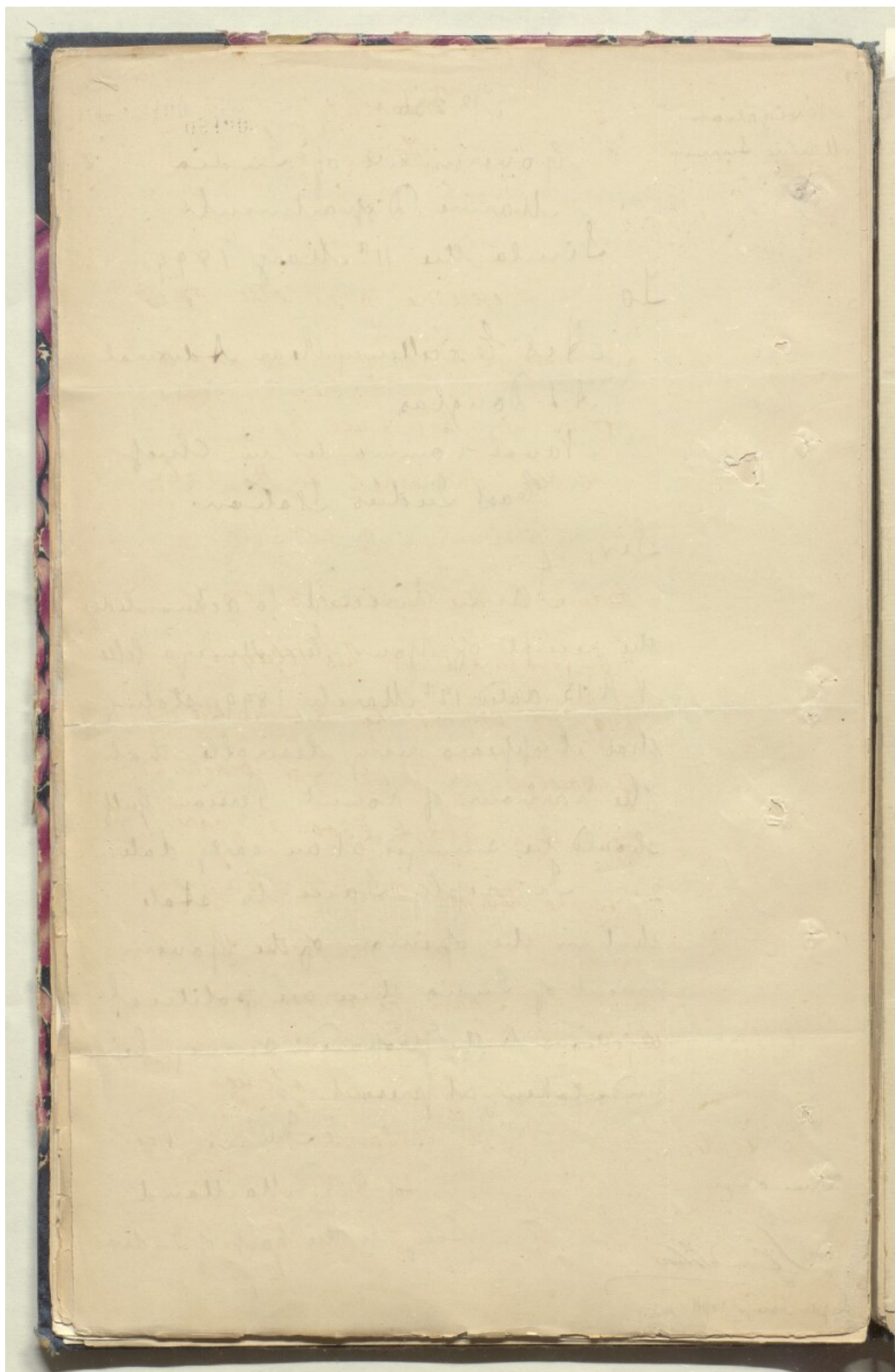
2. You should no doubt
send the *Lawrence* to Koweit
at intervals, so as to evince
the positive interest of the
British Government in the place,
but not with such frequency
or in such a manner as
to excite suspicion, and
certainly not with the intention
of floating buoys or planting
flags.

I have the honour to be
^{Sir,}
Your most obedient servant

W. Wood

Offr. Under Secretary to the
Govt. of India.
25/







205
Bussorah. 00180
June 5. 1899

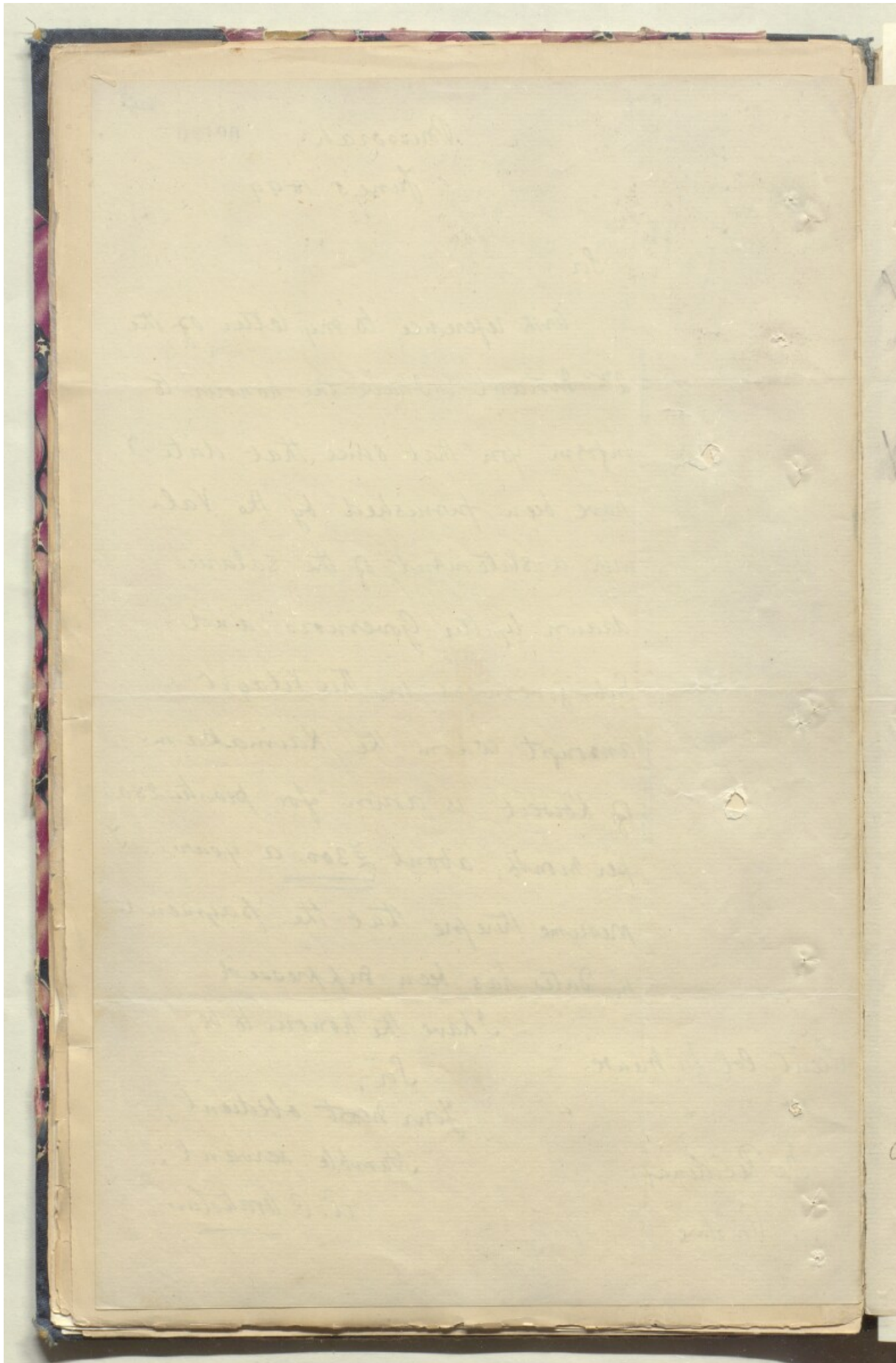
12/16
Sir,

With reference to my letter of the
2nd Instant, I have the honour to
inform you that since that date I
have been furnished by the Vali
with a statement of the salaries
drawn by the Governors and
Sub-governors in this Vilayet,
amongst whom the Kaimakam
of Koweit is down for prastis 2806
per month, about £300 a year. I
presume therefore that the payment
in dates has been suppressed.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
Humble servant;
A. C. Bratislav

Lieut.-Col. McMeade
The Residency
Bushire

R





Confidential

Bushra h

206

00191

June 9. 99

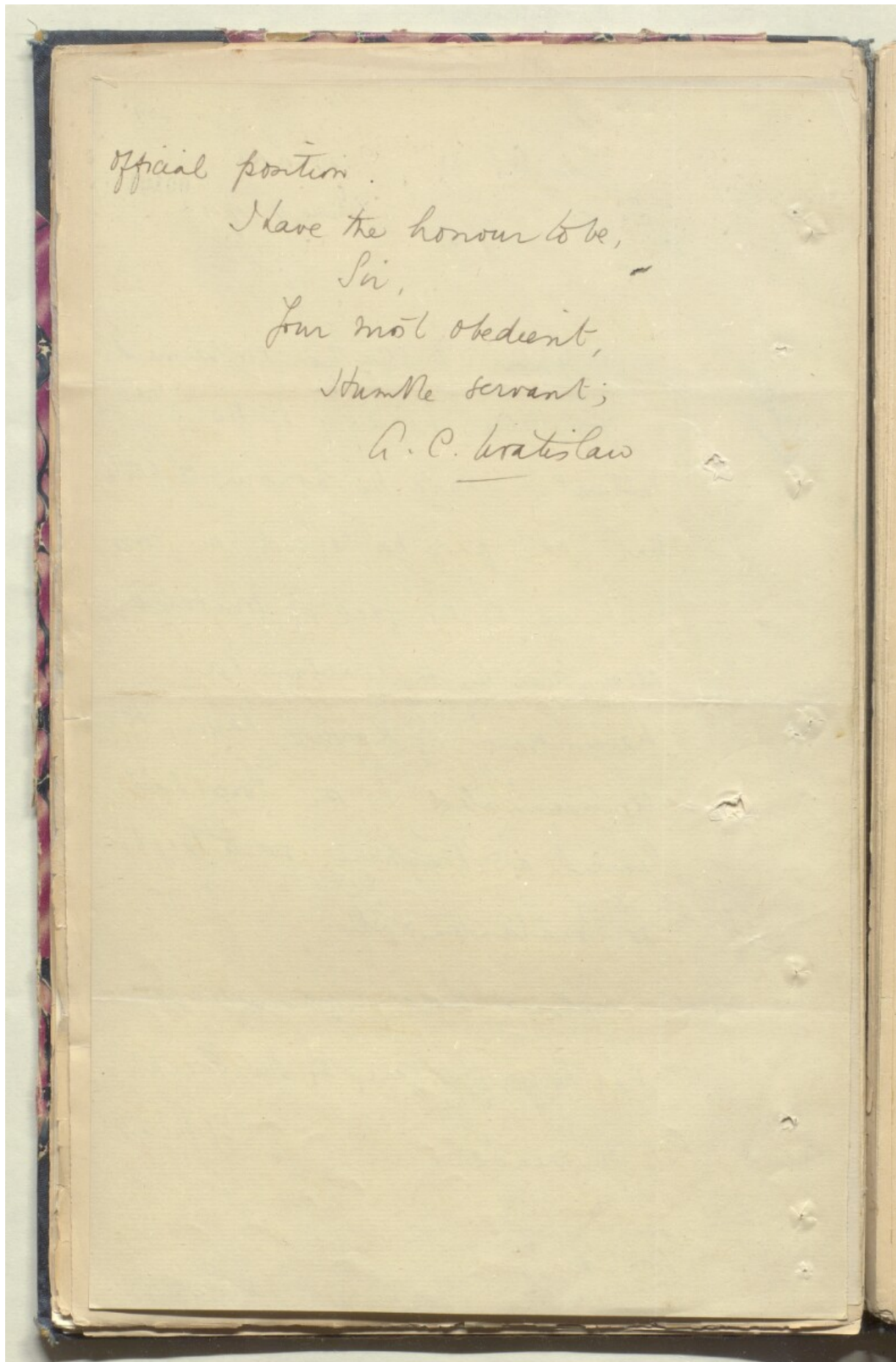
Sir,

In reply to the question contained
in your letter no. 259 of the 7th
Instant, I have the honour to state
that I can find no record in my
archives of the fact of Mutarek's
recognition by the Sultan as
Kaimakam of Kuwait having been
communicated to the Consulate
General at Bushire, or to Baghdad
or Constantinople.

Colonel Loch informs me, however,
that he was aware of the Sherkh's
official

Lieut. Col. M. Meade

Bushire Rf

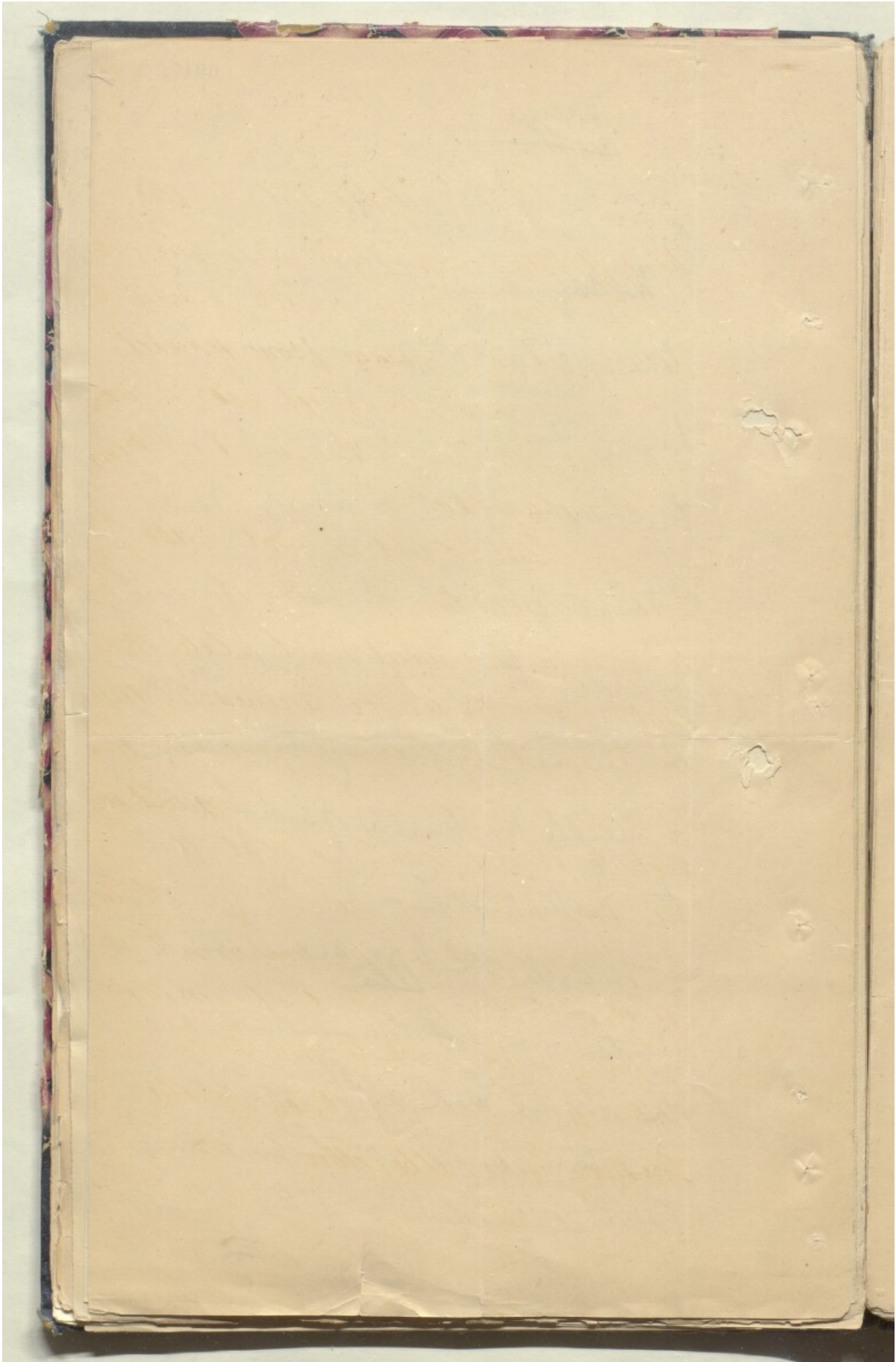




00192 207

Coul Foreign 12920719 June 99

Si
 Reference to letter 6 June
 letter No 70 of the 21st May 1899
 I have the honor to forward for
 the info of the Govt of India
 Copies of correspondence passed
 between the Consul at Bushra
 & myself regarding the recognition
 of Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit by
 the British Govt -
 2. It will be ~~seen~~ seen that the
 matter was not communicated to
 the Consul Genl at Bagdad or to
 me though Mr. Wetherill says
 Col. Loch was aware of the Sheikh's
 position. WSR
 18/6.





Confidential

00193 208

Resident

Sheikh Abdul Salam the head of the Sunni community called on me this morning with a view to delivery me a message from Kuwait.

He went to Kuwait over a month ago and returned to Bushire last Monday in a sailing boat.

First he told me that Sheikh Mobarek asked him to convey his salams to me and then went on to state that Sheikh Mobarek's writer named Abdullah bin Hamad told him to give me his salams confidentially and request me not to forget him and that the Seadoon family of the Muratjin tribes have written to Sheikh Mobarek to the effect that they are tired of Turkish tyranny and wish to join Sheikh Mobarek at Kuwait & throw off the Turkish yoke altogether and that Sheikh Mobarek has sent a letter



on the latter subject to you and is
sending it through Agha Mohamed
Nallin

I was very surprise to learn that
Abdullah bin Hamad who is the
Sheikh's confidential clerk should
have been so indiscreet to mention
this to Sheikh Abdul Salam.

I however treated the matter as
ordinary news and made enquiries
about Basrah and Mohamerah news
to throw him off his guard & not to let
him think that there was anything.

The first part of Abdullah's
message of course means that he
would like a present of some sort.

We had nothing with suitable at the
time when you visited Koweit
otherwise I would have mentioned
it to you.

As regards the news about the
proposals of the Montefik Sheikh
it requires some deliberations.



00194

201

First, these people have some of the choicest tracts of land in Arabia on the Euphrates river about 150 miles above Basrah. They were conquered by the Turks I believe about 20 years ago and the fathers of the leading sheikhs subsequently held high offices in the Turkish service and Waser Pasha the principal sheikh of his time was Wali of Basrah for some time. The Muntafik tribes are practically Turkish subjects and pay taxes to Turkey. It would however be better to obtain the history of these people from the Basrah Consulate. The present sheikhs, also like the Sabah family, own property on the ~~shat~~ the Arab and the Tigris and in Basrah itself I believe.

It seems to me peculiar why a people who have fertile lands in their possession should choose to give them up and elect to turn



up then abode in a desert like the
Koweit district to the detriment
to their herds and agricultural
pursuits in which they are employed
on the banks of the Euphrates.

Sheikh Mubarek is very ambitious
and it strikes me that possibly since
his understanding with our Government
he is attempting to bring about a
union of the great Arab tribes under
his authority and have a combination
strong enough to oppose Turkish
encroachments. and if this is the
case he must have given these people
sufficient reasons to lead them to
believe that he has a force at his
back which will repel the Turks, so
as to induce them to join him.

What puts the above idea into
my head is that a little while after
Sheikh Mubarek murdering his brother
Colonel Wilson visited Bahrain on
one of his tours. Subsequently we



00195 210
a confidential communication was received from the Foreign Office to the effect that a report had reached the Porte that the British Consul was secretly engaged in forming an Arab principality under the Sheikh of Bahrain, by the union of Koweit and some other district with Bahrain.

It is not unlikely that Sheikh Nubareh at the time being weak, gave out secretly that such a project was in view so as to induce people to support him in his position in the hope of being insured against Turkish interference in Koweit, and then perhaps forgetting to hear of it may have possibly refrained from absorbing Koweit to avoid possible complications with the English Govt.

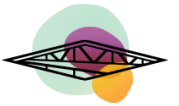
I may be mistaken to think that the Saadoon family are Turkish subjects. The family referred to may be a branch of the Montefier tribes who are not under control of Turkey.



but to come ~~to~~ to a proper conclusion it would be necessary to clear that point. If however they should be Turkish subjects then it may be concluded that their settling in the Koweit district will be a source of friction between the Turks & Sheikh Mobarek and a menace to the peace of Koweit & if Sheikh Mobarek is wise he will refrain from gathering round him tribes who are vassals of Turkey.

The foregoing views are entirely my own and there may be nothing in them and I submit them for what they are worth, with a hope that they possibly may be of some use.

JCL
16/6 99



00196 21

Cypher telegram from Foreign, Simla.

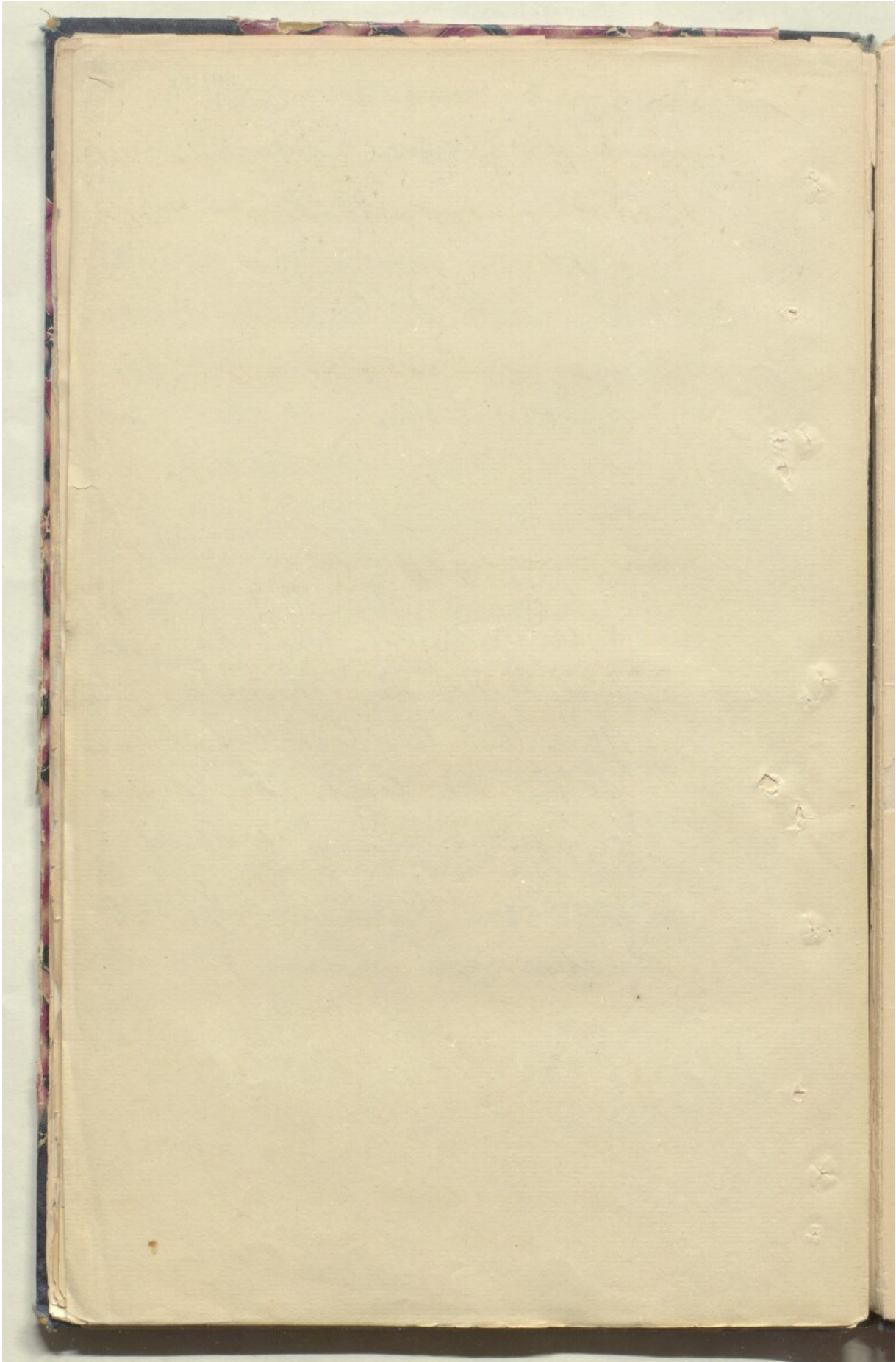
23/12 June 1899

To
Resident
Bushire

Your letters Nos 58 and
62 of May 7th and 14th.

It is not considered necessary
at present to give any warning
to the Porte: but Wratislaw will
hint to Hamdi Pasha, when occasion
offers, that to attack Koweit would
get him into trouble. Please send a
confidential message to Sherkh
enjoining caution in his language &
actions -

Foreign
23/6





212
00197

١٨٩٩

N^o 74. 17th June
From Residenty Agent Bahrein
To Resident

من البحرين مهابوت ملاك شرجون ١٨٩٩

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الحمد لله الذي جعلنا من خلقه

حفظ جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكه والاحلال لاكم الاحتم القنا الكون ميا ابو زوفون

دام بقاء آمين بعادى الام وسؤال من صحة ذاتكم العلية لانتم في خبر وعافيه ولا يخفى
سعادتم في شهر صفر ١٢١٧ هـ مطابق لثلاثه جون ١٨٩٩ هـ وصل انسان مخصوص من طرف
جناب الكرم الشيخ مبارك الصباح وفي صحيفه كتاب من جنابه وملفوفه ورقه طيحه باسم محكم
وقاب منه ايضا مفتوحا بجوفه مع ورقه طيحه باسم سعادتم غامحا فيها مضمون
ارادته ويرجى ذاك من مكرم الدوله كهيئه العيشه كما هو ذاك الرجل علمنا ان خواطر
الاخوان وايضا يستفرحنا من حظركم من تلك الغفوات الذي هو معروف هل في تبي
كما في الان جاريه اونا مروند باقدا مات اخوه للناسبه في انتظاركم سيعمل حسب احوالكم
والكتب المذكور مع الاوراق جميعا بعلوكم لفا نلاحظوكم بالصحة والعافيه والرجل الذي
من طرفه هو متوقف ومنظر الجواب من سعادتم هذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم سالمين
وغرومين ولي الامرون في شهر صفر ١٢١٧ هـ مطابق لثلاثه جون ١٨٩٩ هـ
سبح محمد بن عبد الله

HC

On the 13th June a special messenger
arrived from Sheikh Mubarek bringing
with him a letter with an enclosure to
my name. Also there was enclosed
a letter under flying seal to your address
in which he has written his appeal &
prayer for the same of the indulgence



of the British Government, as he states,
for causing the suicides of the brothers.

He also consults you regarding some
matters to which he refers, as to whether
they should remain as hitherto fore or
whether you will instruct him to take
steps which may appear politic to you.
He will act agreeable to your wishes.

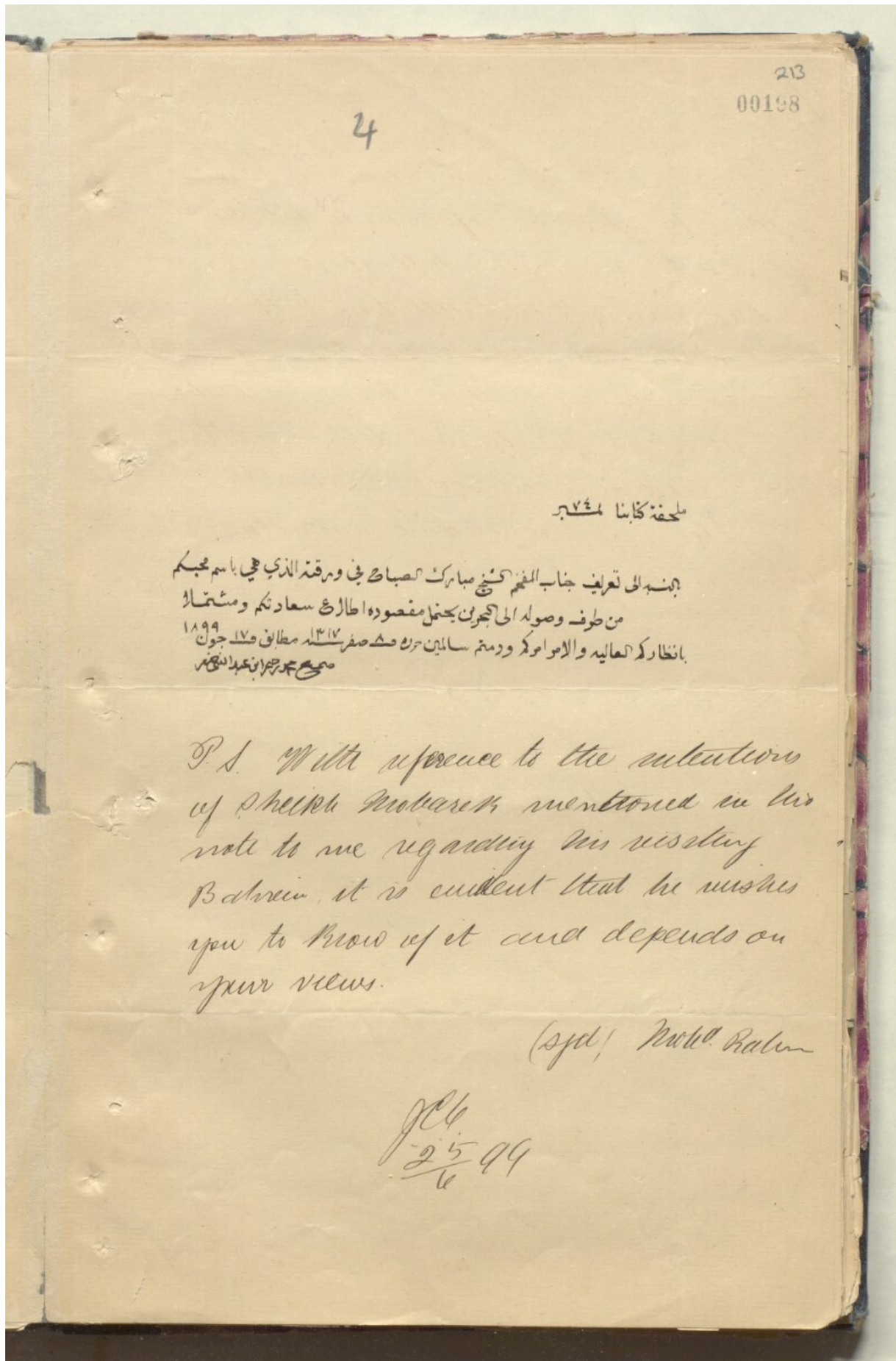
The above mentioned letters with
their enclosures are sent herewith.

The person who came with the
letters is waiting to take a reply from
you.

(Sg) M. H. Rahim Suppa

25/9/99
H





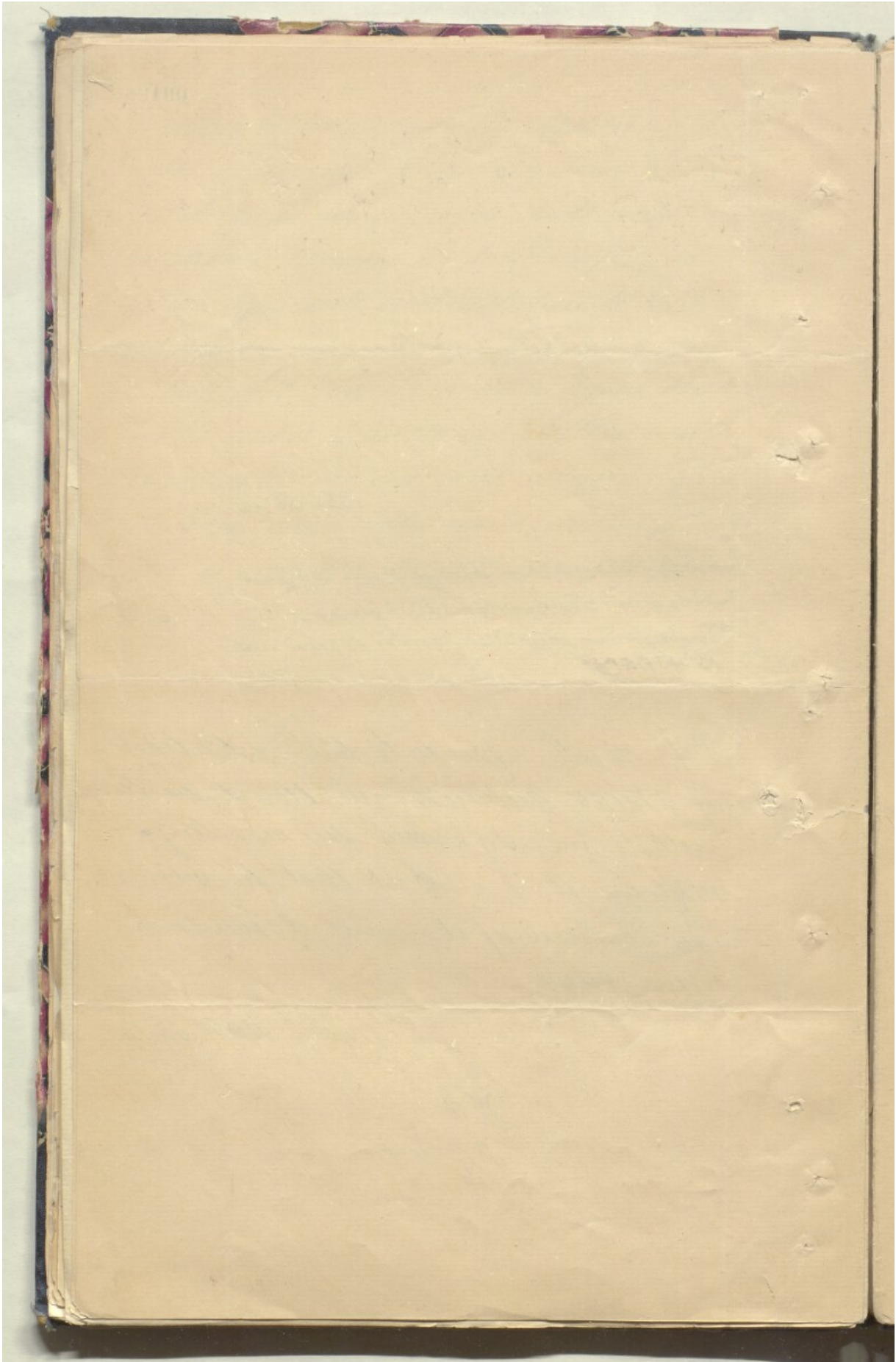
ملحقه كتابنا مشرق

بسمه الى تعريف جناب المقيم كني مبارك الصباح في ورقه الذي هي باسم محكم
من طرف وصوله الى البحرين بحمل مفعوده اطارح سعادته ومشتاقا
بانظاره العاليه والامور كدومته سالمين تركه مشغولا مطافى في ١٧٠٩
مع محمد بن عبد الله

P.S. With reference to the situation
of Sheikh Mubarak mentioned in his
note to me regarding his residing
Bahrain, it is evident that he wishes
you to know of it and depends on
your views.

(Sgd) Mr. B. B. B.

J. L. B. B. B.
25/5/99





00119

214

14th June 99.

From Sheikh Mubarak
To Residency Qat Bahrain
&c.

Your letters dated 1st May & Mubarak
one of which, sent with Abdullah bin
Wahab, have been received. I have
read them and was glad to hear
of your welfare and all your
state is understood. I beg you
will excuse the delay in replying
as I was away. The Resident's
letter sent enclosed therein has
reached and I thank you best
endeavours and the same is due
to your excellent disposition and
the friendship inherited from
our fathers. You have rewarded
me with the best recompense

I am obliged and thankful of
the favours of the great British
Government. Please God I will
eventually receive of them kindness
and considerations. On this occasion
I enclose my petition to the Resident



which peruse.

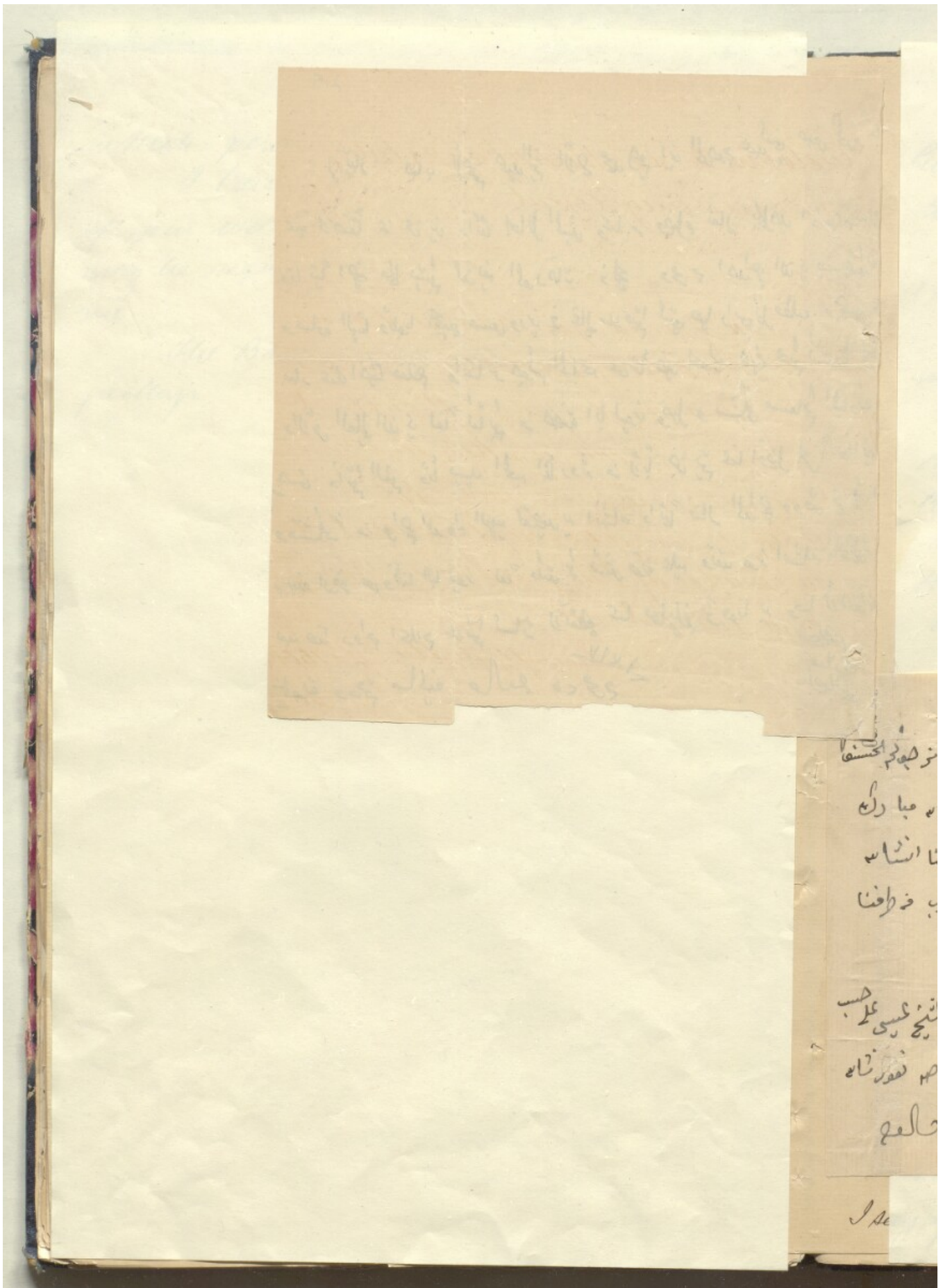
I trust that the joyful news
of your well being together with what
may be required will continually reach
me.

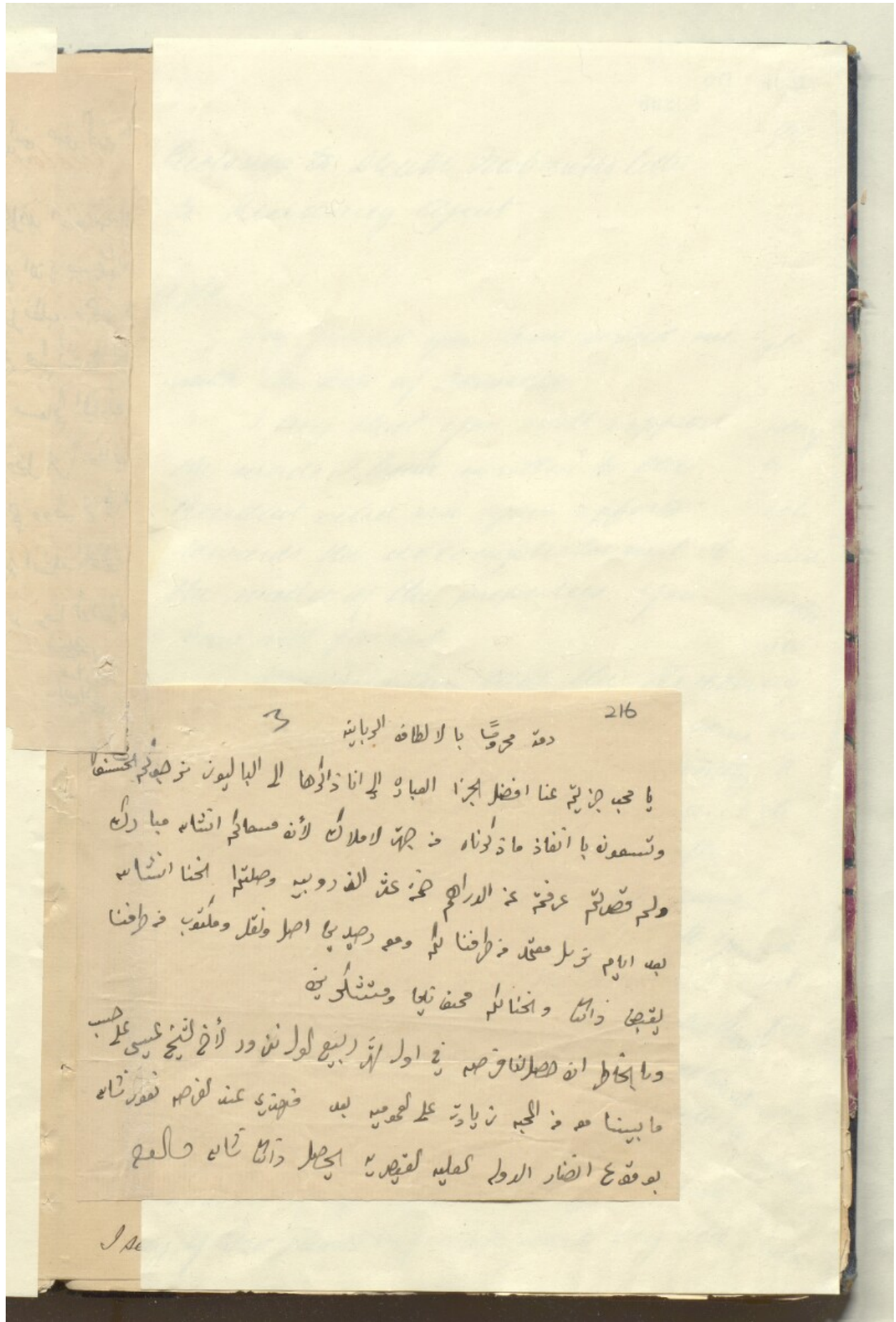
The Brothers and sons send you
greetings.

Spd/ Mubarek
Al-Subeah

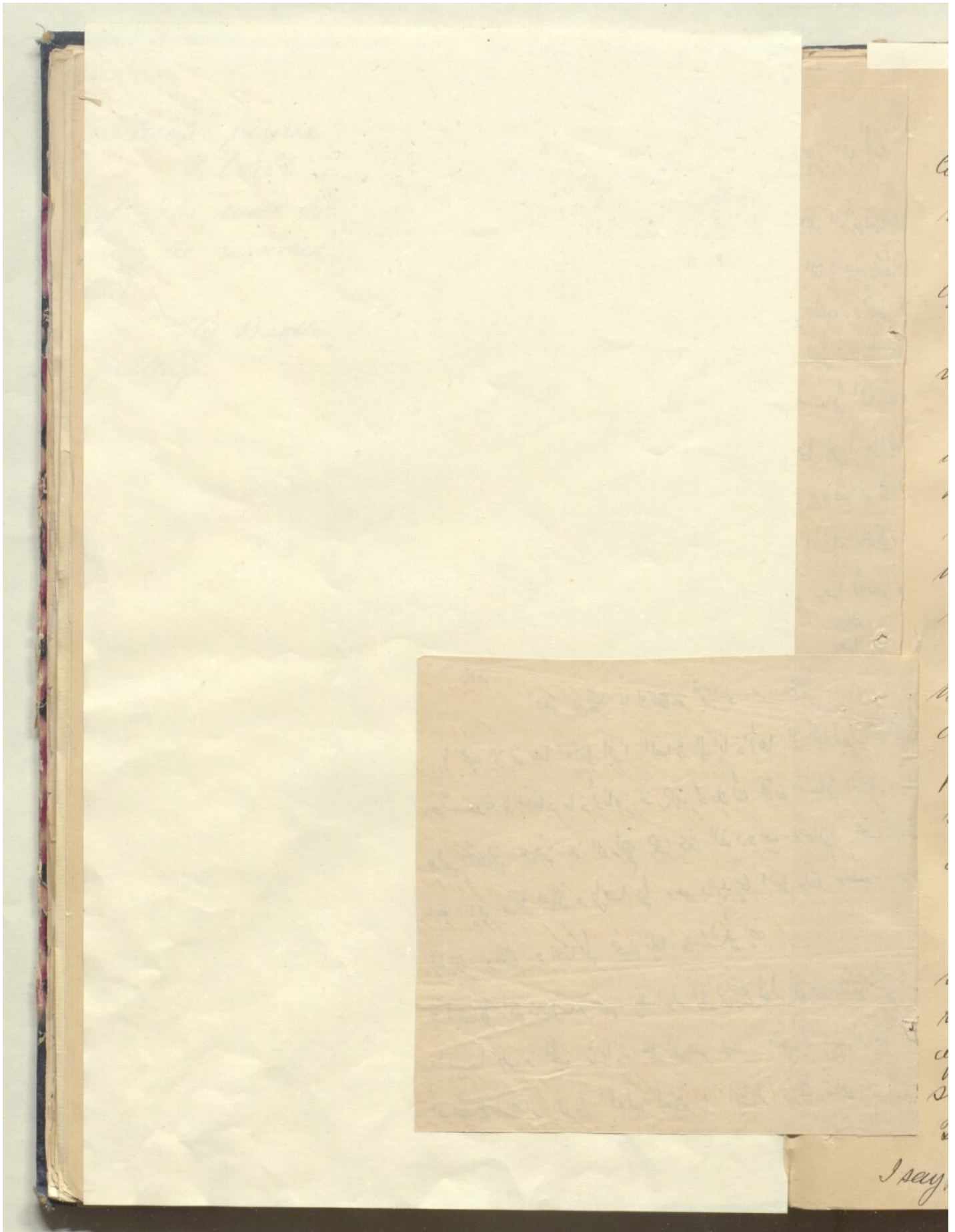


لم يزل
 بناب الأخي محمد بن الأخر محمد بن أبي المصطفى عبد الله بن صفير المديني
 عن لاصقاً عن عزي بن دانا أبا المصطفى وعنه من فضله قال بكلفه أدام الله تعالى له دائماً
 وثانياً أختي حكا بنسب لذيبة المودعات ذلك ومحرم الهدايا الذي يبيد عليه الداهية
 وصالته الهنا ولولنا أجمع فسد ورن في غالي سلاطيني لها راسل مطلق وجميع ما ذكرتم
 صار عنه أخيراً فلعلم وإننا نرجوكم الماسحة عن تأفد إجماع حيث جعلت با أختار
 والأخر العالي الذي لفاً لنا في من رضة أبا ليون وصل ونشكر مسعالي المبادر فداننا
 حتى دأبكم إليهم وأنا سيد المحبة الأروث من رباباً جن يرمي عنا أفضل اجراً فأبني محققاً
 وقشركم من حرام الدولة البرية لقصد به انتباه دائماً نزال الدائم ووصي ع الأضار
 وبينه الرفق مع وطننا الباليون لفاً فليد بكم تشرفوه عليه وتقد هره انتباه الحظيرة والمال
 له هذا دوام اعلام سلاطيني سائر لا تقطع عنا محاربتكم فوفونا به وحنا لأفوانه ولأولاد
 يكونه وديع مائنه حاكمه محمد





216
 دعة محروجا بالاطافة الجارية
 يا محبة إن لم يمت عنا أفضل الجزاء الصبار إلى انذارها إلى الباليون نزهةكم احسنها
 وتسعون بانفاذ ما ذكرناه من جهة لاطافك لأنه مسطكم انشاء مبارك
 ولم تصدكم عن رضى في الدارهم حتى عند الفروسيه وصلتم انشاء انشاء
 به ايام نزل معكم في طرقتكم ومع رصديا اصل وفقد وعلق في طرقتكم
 يقضي ذلكم وانماكم محفونا ومشتلوني
 وما يحاطر انه صلتنا في اول ربيع لولنا در اذ في لشيخ عيسى عليه
 ما بيننا مع من الحجة زيادة على العمود به فهدى عند الفرض فهدى
 بعد قدح انصار الدول كعليه لفهدى يحضر ذلكم تاه فالحق





217
00262

Enclosure to Sheikh Probawid letter
to Residency Agent

My friend

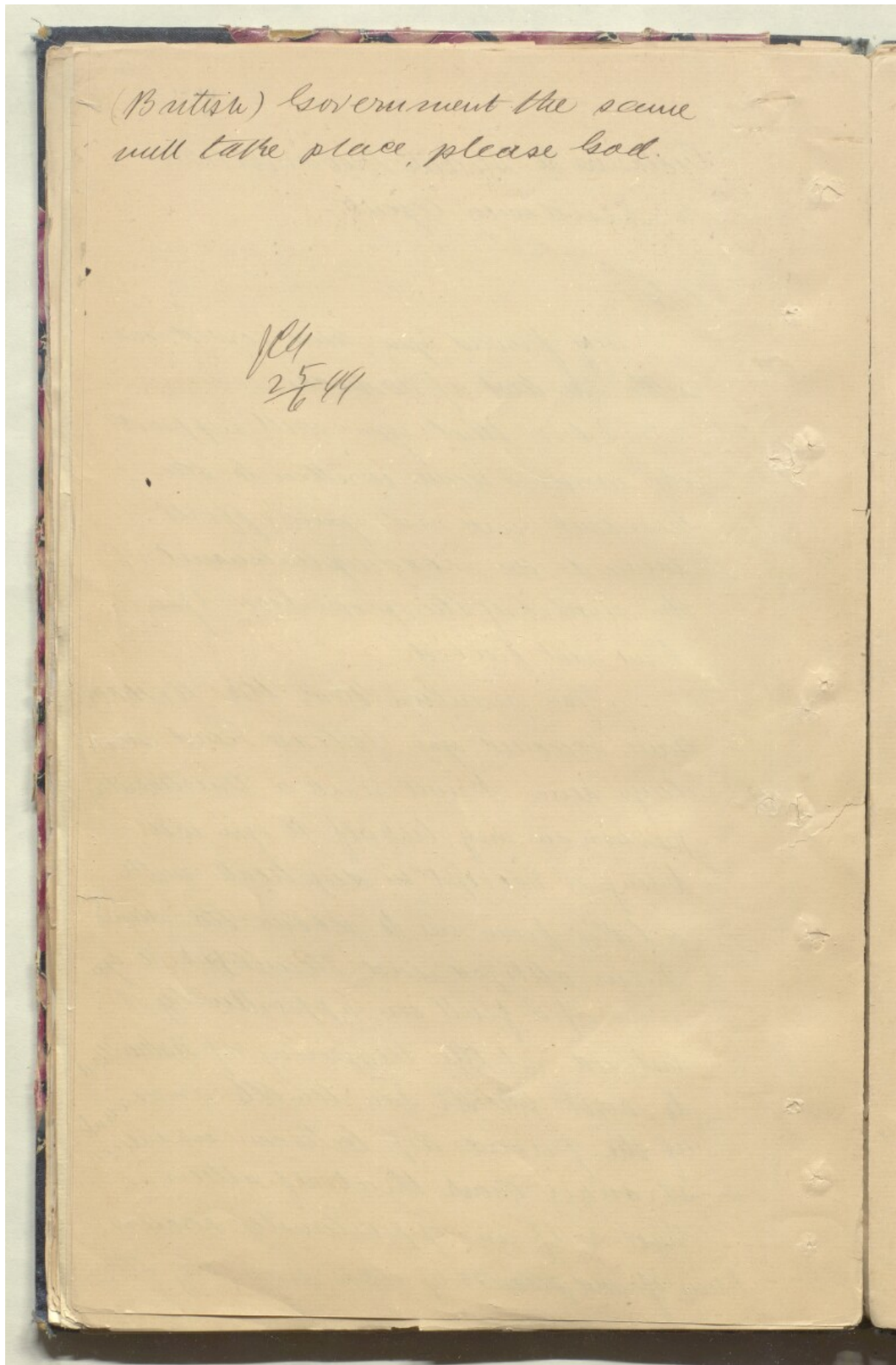
Very friend you have served me
with the list of services.

I beg that you will support
the words I have written to the
Resident and use your efforts
towards the accomplishment of
the matter of the properties. You
have not failed.

You mention that the Rs 15,000
have reached you. Please God some
days hence I will send a trustworthy
person on my behalf to you will
bring a receipt in duplicate with
a letter from me to receive the same.
I am obliged and thankful to you.

If I find an opportunity I
intend at the beginning of Rabi-ul-Thani
to visit Sheikh Isa bin Ali on account
of the friendship between us which
stronger than that of others.

That is if an opportunity occurs.
I say if ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~possible~~ if approved by the





0020328

Koweit 5th June 99

From Sheikh Noorah
To Resident
Sir

I received your letter of 7th Hija in the most blessed hour and all that it referred to regarding the cleanness of the great British Government is understood. Such is your dignity. I inwardly and openly deserve your high consideration.

You stated that it will give you pleasure to always hear of my welfare. I thank God in the best of health and please God I will afford much joy through your considerations.

You also mentioned that H.E. the Viceroy of India has signed the agreement, and as stated it has reached me. I thank you for your efforts and goodness.

You said it would please you to send the money, the amount of which is known, in the most convenient way to me. I thank



your endeavours and kindness.

The money has reached Ayta Haddadin & he informed me of its having reached him, viz Rs 15000 in three cases. Please God, I will send a trustworthy person on my part to the said Ayta Haddadin to receive the money and give him a receipt in duplicate.

You remark that these matters should be kept secret. I am keeping (secret) all that has happened as you desired and ordered.

(sgd) Mubarak AlSabah

RM
24/4/99



0020429

Enclosure in Sheikhi Mobarak's letter.

The representations of your devoted
is that you quote my properties
as being at Fao. Fao itself is
wholly my property, and not mere
properties at Fao. (I have) also
other property opposite Mohamerah,
and the Sofich on the north of
Dewasir and the Qjairawick &
the Kind which are equal to the
whole of Bursch. These are the
properties in the Bursch district.

I have confidence in your
statements even if be verbal,
without being written, but I beg
only of your excellent justice, for
the reassurance of the brothers, to
mention that the Fao property &
the other properties at Bursch are
under the protection of the Great
British Government and that we
are under your protection.

I believe that your protection of
your subject is complete in regard
to their condition, possession &
what may befall them. Such a



thing is midant and the mentioning
of the same is for the reassurance
of those other than myself & I pray
of your excellent clemency for its
accomplishment.

I would also refer to you
regarding the Articles taken by the
masters of sailing craft, under my
signature, for all vessels owned by
the people of Koweit. In what
form should they be? Also should
the flag remain as it is?

The quarantine officer who
occasionally calls here and returns
to Bussrah takes no fees, nor ^{opposes} ~~prevents~~
any one & has no power except that
when here he gives vessels going to
Bussrah certificates that the town
is clear of disease similar to the
certificates I ~~always~~ issue stating
that the town is free from disease
and sickness. I write this and
await your orders.

W. H.
24/99

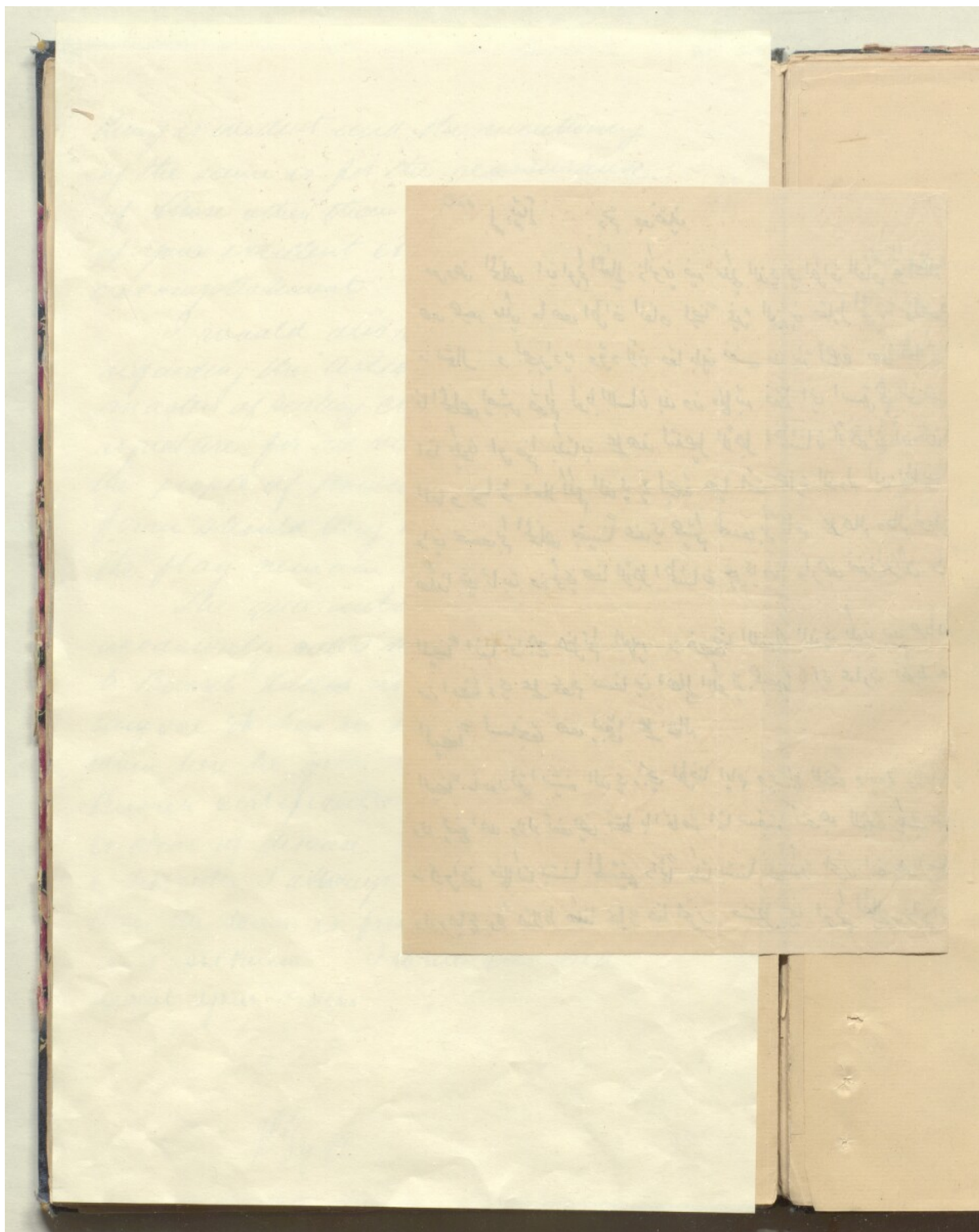


٢٢٠
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

معرض المحلة انه اوكى العالي ذكرني فيه ملكي الذي في اطار الفاء واحالة انه لفاو المذكور
هو جميع ملكي ما هو اطار الفاء ايضا غيره الذي في مقابل الحجر واصف به الطريق المذكور
من شمال و لحدوده ورد لان مقابل نفسه مد ينة لينة هذا امل الذي بلينه
فا المحلة يصير قلم لوبا اللسان بدون ملكية فقط اني استقرم من حسن عد التما
اذا يكون ان قلم بكتاب على هذا لتفصيل الاصل اطمئنان لا فدان انه تذكرون ملكي
الفا وسائر امل لكم الذي في لينة هي اتم حاية الدولة البطرانية المصنوعة
واني محض بكم المحلة يقيناً عندي حيث لم تحسم بكم تمام على حاله وماله وما يقدر اليه
هكذا اني ثابت وذكري هذا الاصل اطمئنان غيره هذا واربعه نفوذ ذلك من حسن حاله

ايضا اننا نراجع نظرتكم اليه من فضة القول الذي يكون بيد صاحبه لسفينة
من اعضاءي على عدم سفاتي اهالي اللوثة جميعها با اي مجازة تكون من
ايضا لسفينة هو يعقبا على حاله

ايضا ما عود لوانسنة الذي ربي لرفضا ايام ويرجع للينة ويعد ولا يأخذ رسم
ولا يمنع احد ولا له تفويض فقط بالامانة اذا سفينة تتجه للينة يلبث معها انه اللينة
من كرواض فكلنا بسنا المستقيم دائما ولنا بسنا المذكور اخبر انه بلدنا سلم ذكر مرضي
ولا وجهاء ولا فلاح هكذا عمار هذا اخبر مستظري اوكى لطلال دام الله بقاتكم





N^o 185 of 1899. 22

25th June 1899.

00266

Residency Agent
Bahrein

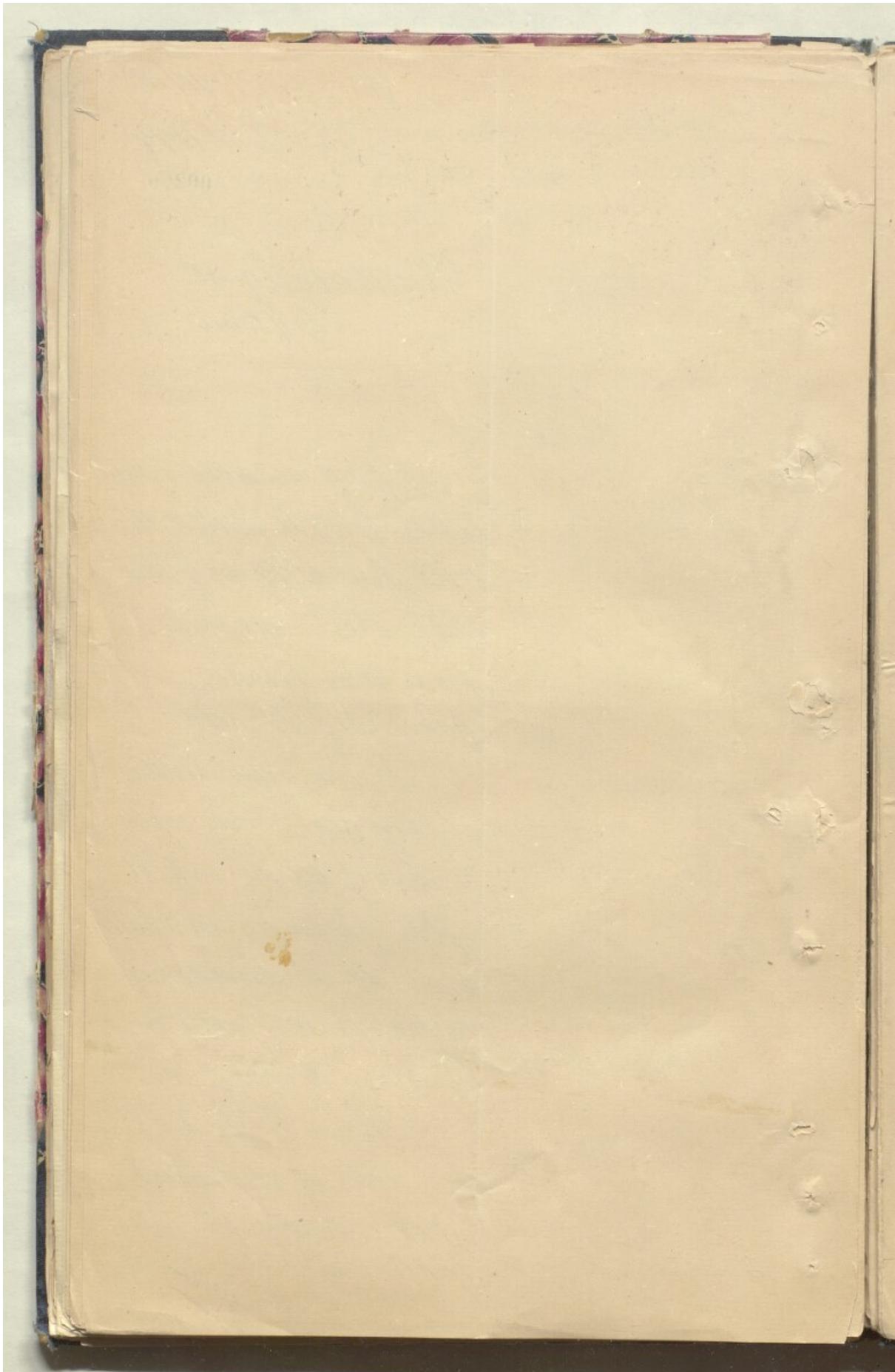
Sir,

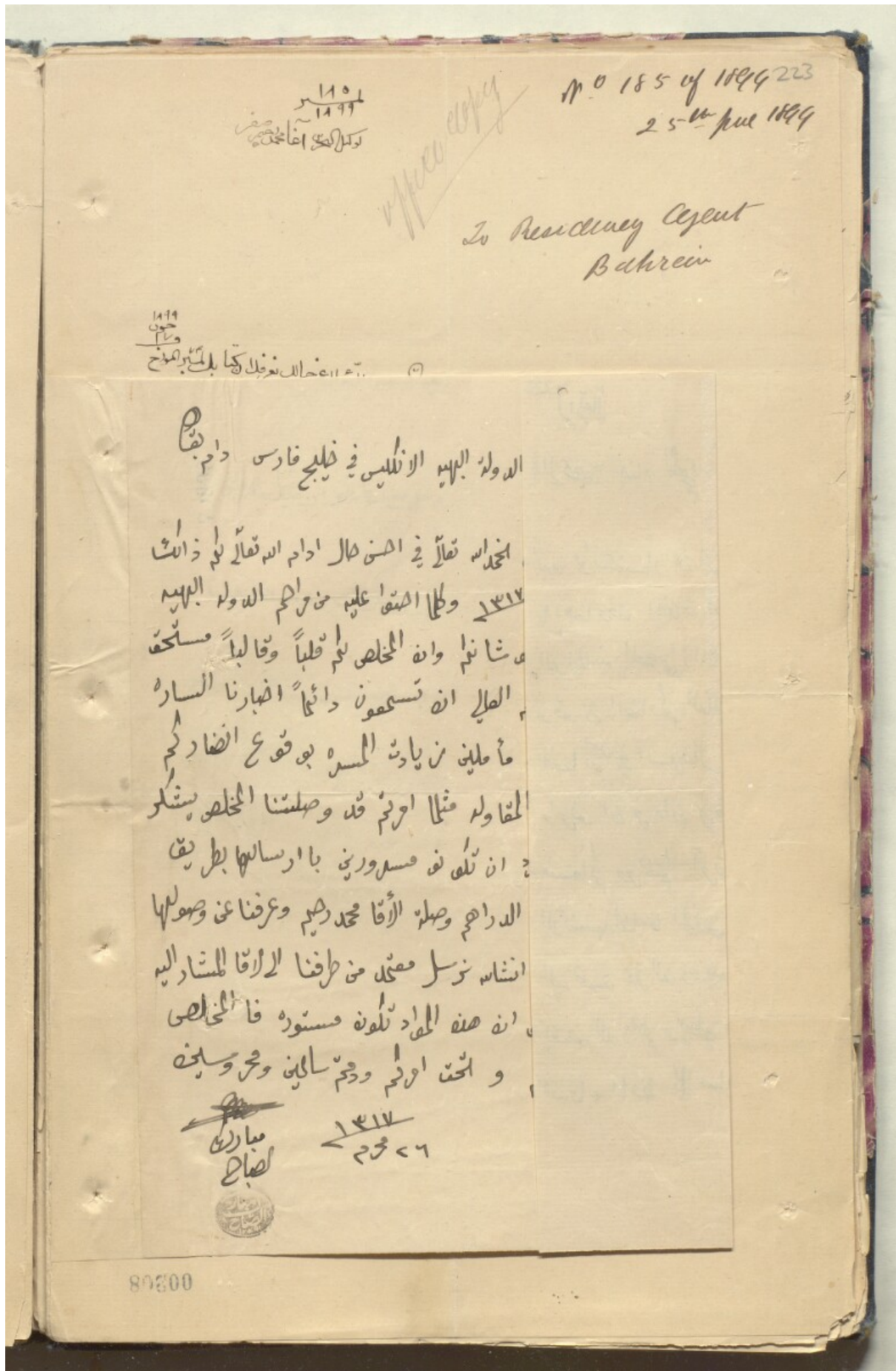
I have received your letter N^o 74 dated the 17th June 1899 together with the enclosures from our friend, forwarded therein.

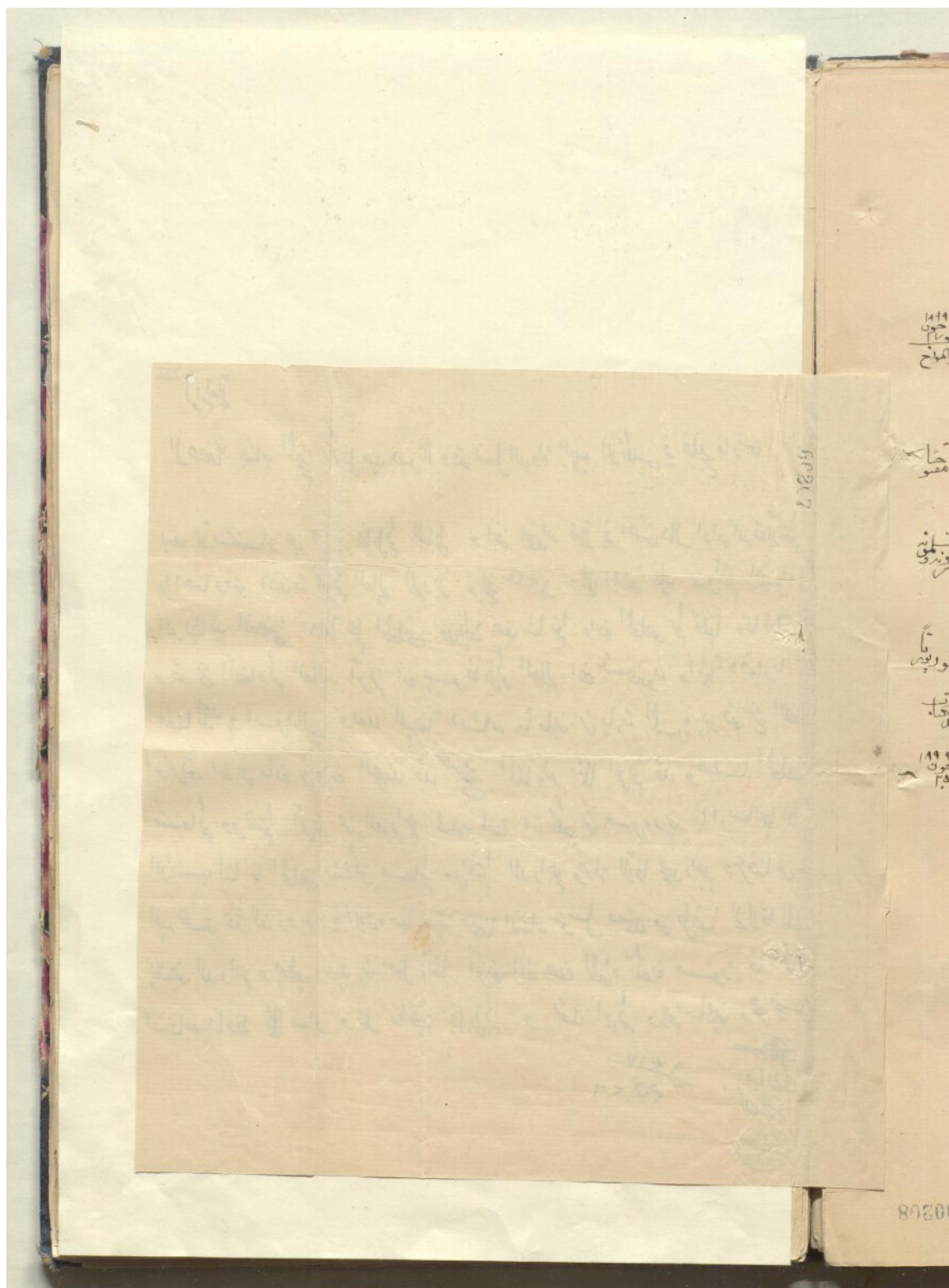
I send you under flying seal my reply to our friend which after perusal carefully seal and hand over to the person who is waiting to take it.

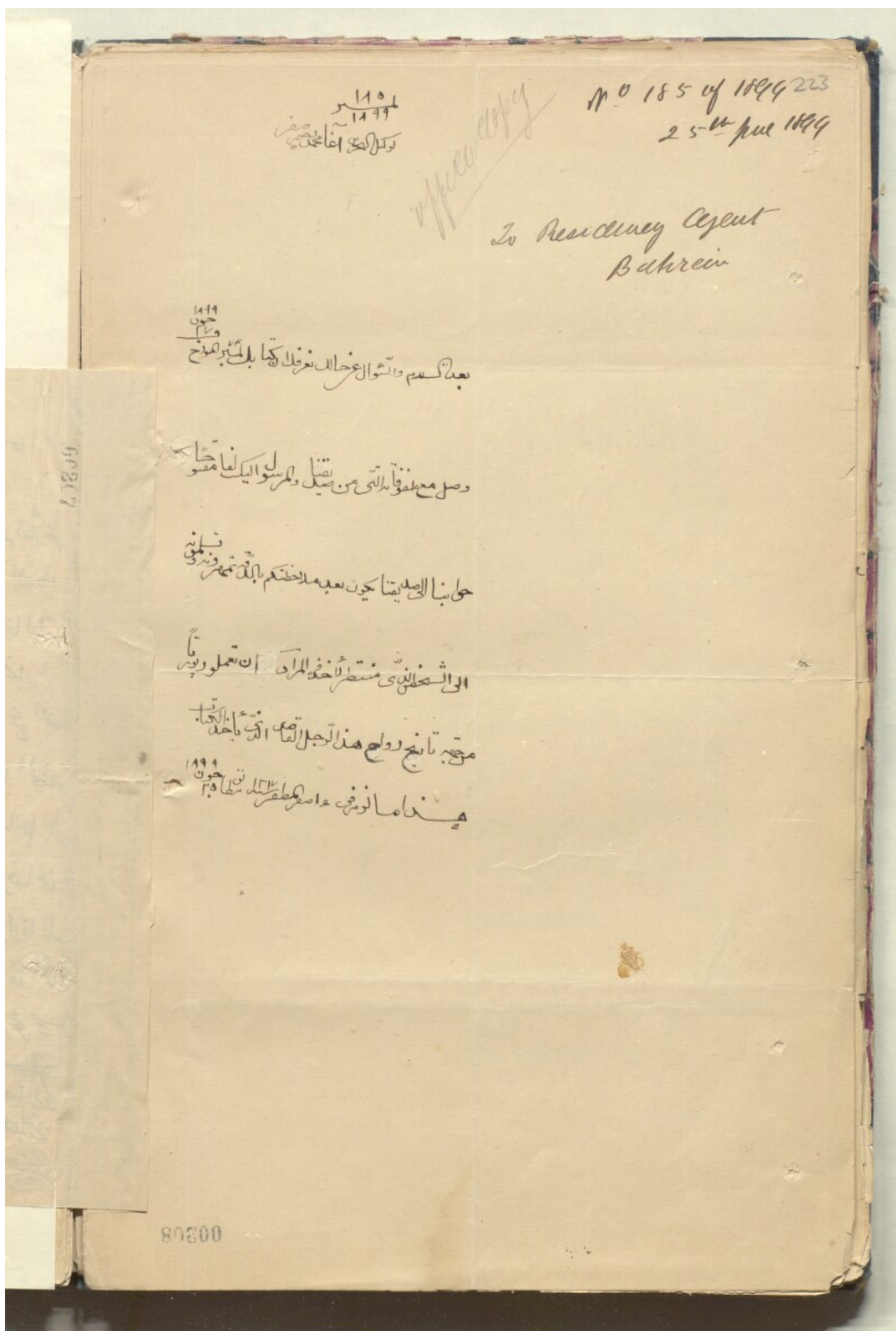
Please report to me the date of departure of the messenger who takes the letter.

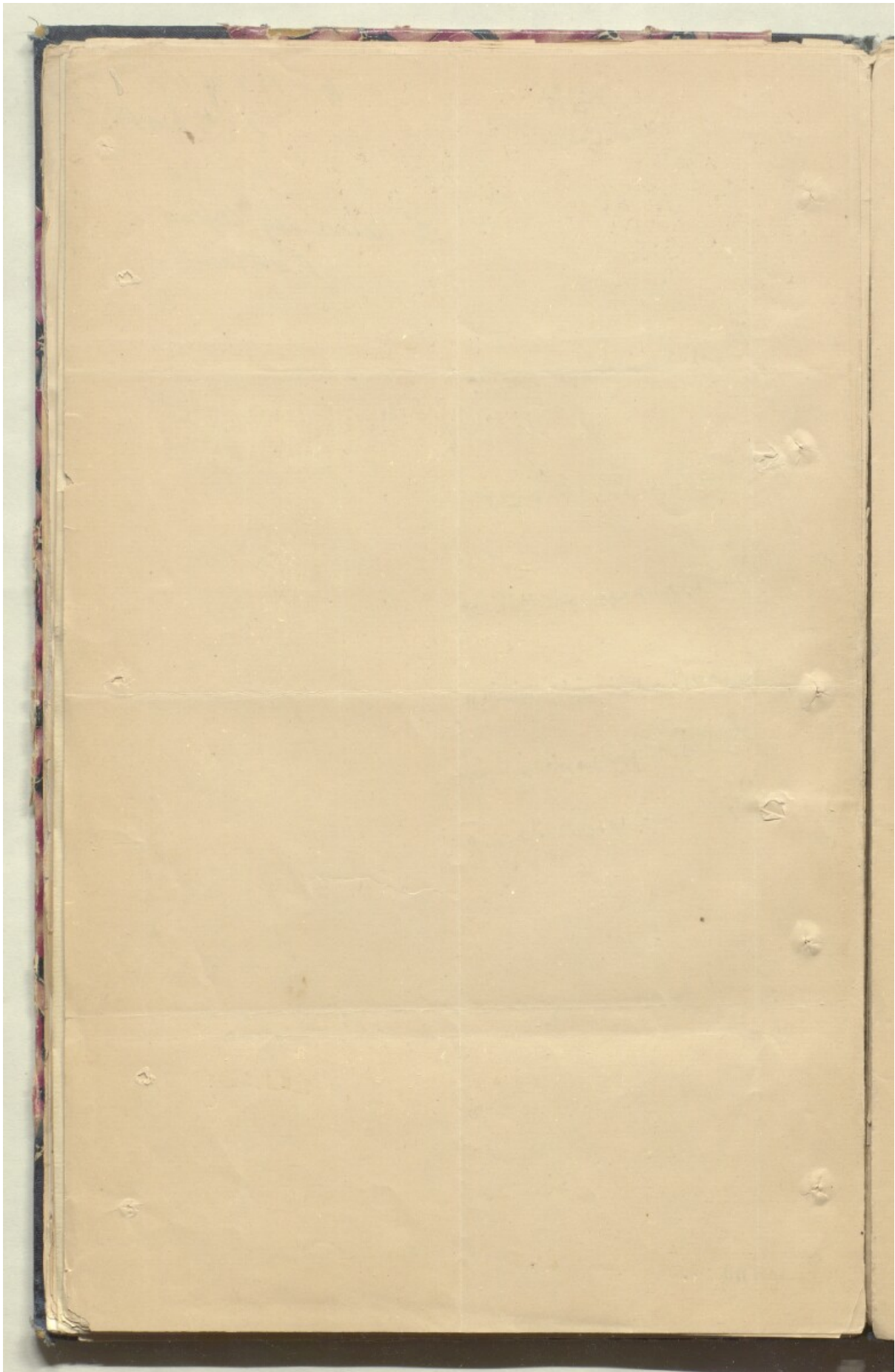
Yours
Resident













17th 186 of 1899 ²⁷⁴
25th June 1899
00209

Shahk Maharrak al Subah
Shahk of Koweit
C/o

I have received your
letter dated the 26th of
Moharrum 1317 and
was glad to hear that
you are enjoying good
health.

I am commencing
^{what you write about}
~~the matter~~ regarding
your properties mentioned
~~in your letter~~, to the
Great British Court and
^{when} ~~directly~~ I receive their
instructions I will write
~~inform you of their~~
~~decision~~ ^{again to you.}

I am informed
that you are imposing
a duty of 5% on all
goods entering your



district which is
contrary to your old
established custom;
also that you intend
harbouring in your
territory some of the
Mondifet tribes who
are considered by the
Ottoman Government
as their subjects.

These actions are
likely my friend to
draw the attention of
the Ottoman Govt to
Koweit and may
become the cause of
friction between that
Govt. and yourself
I ~~am~~^{am} therefore ~~instructed~~^{instructed} to inform
you that for various
good reasons the
Great Govt. who have
the welfare and
independence of you.



225
00270

self and Koweit ^{and}
 heart considers it
 most necessary for
 you to refrain from
 taking ^{using} any actions or language
~~which are~~ likely to
 give cause for the
 Ottoman Govt. to
 interfere in the
 affairs of Koweit.
 I ^{is again} ~~am~~ ^{that you} ~~the~~ impress on
 you ~~to~~ keep these
 communication and
 the existence of the
 agreement strictly
 secret and not to
 divulge it until the
 moment the Great
 British Govt may
 consider proper
 Give my greetings to your
 Brothers & sons. W. S. R.

Pal: Resident
 Persian Gulf

JLH
 24/6/99



British Consulate. Personal

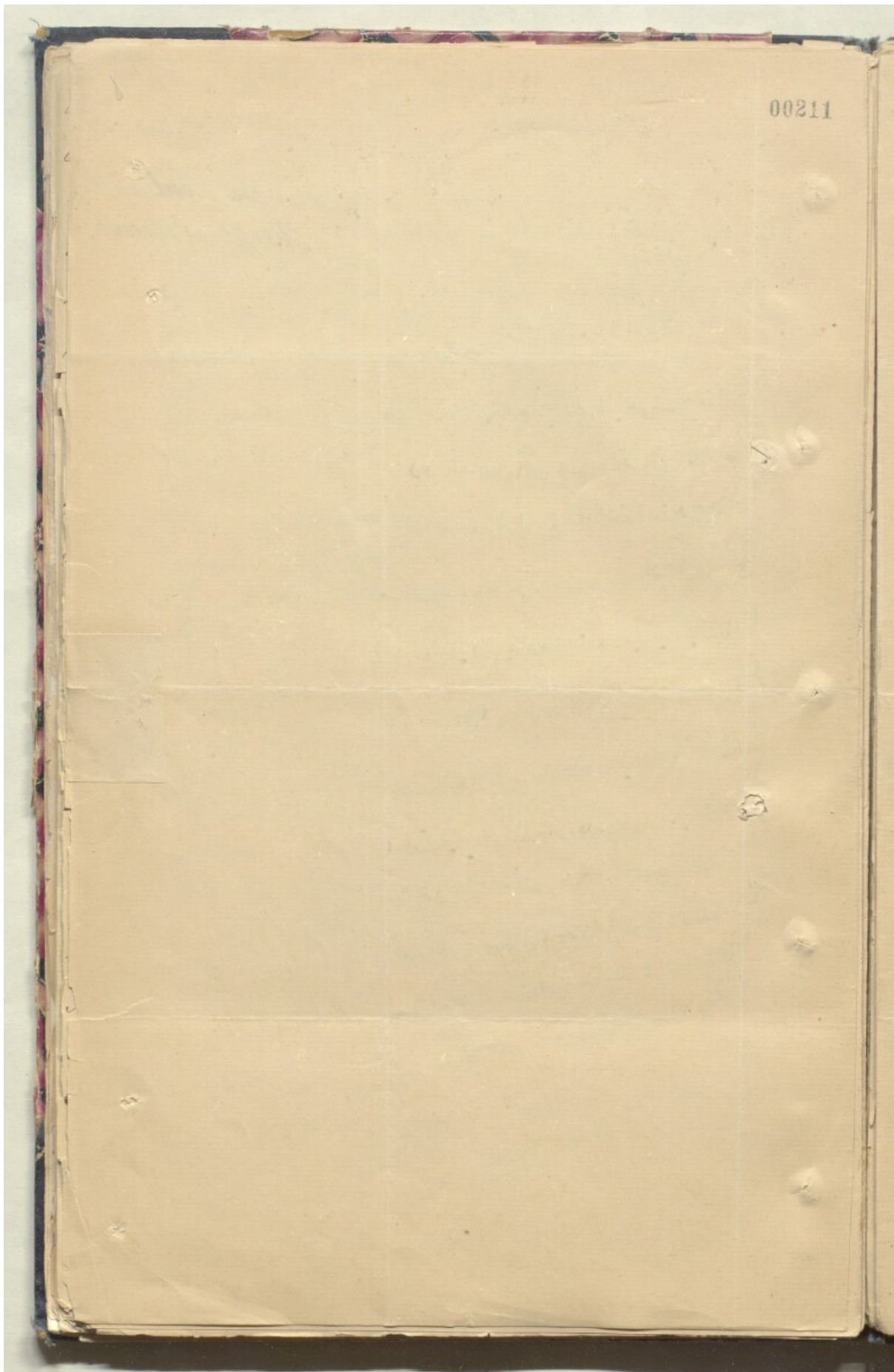
17/6/99.

My dear Colonel,

I think you can go on your trip to K'chee with a quiet mind so far as Koweit is concerned. The Turks are not likely to do anything rash in that direction yet awhile. Indeed, from what Hamidi Pasha tells me, they would not be disinclined to come to a friendly understanding with us about the place & its future. I have telegraphed & written to the ambassador on this subject, but have no idea what H.E.'s views are. The only rock ahead is the desire of the Sanitary Board to institute effective Quarantine ~~from~~ the Arab Coast. Their doctor here rec^d. telegraphic instructions the day before yesterday to consult with the Wali & report on the best places for establishing Quarantine Stations, & the two laid their heads together & decided to recommend El Beida, Adjar, Kattif & Koweit! Effective Quarantine at K. would mean soldiers to back it up. I have wired all this to Constantinople.

(sd) A. C. Wroblewski

View on the Qatar Digital Library: http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100023520804.0x000033



۱۸۹۹

منزلت کرد و در کتب معتبره نقل شده است

حضرة جناب العالي الجاهذوي شوكه والجلال الاكرم الامام القائل صيا اليوز وفوسل

طه بجاء آمهين بعد السلام وسؤال عن صحة ذراكم اعليه لانتم في خبر وعافيه
 وثر في ابرك الاوقات واشرف الساعات تشرفت بكتابكم كسائي ^{١٨٩٨}
 الموزع في شهر صفر ^{١٣١٧} له مطابق في ^{١٨٩٩} له وماعرفتم فداي
 ومرسول سعادتكم بجوفه كتابا مفتوحا باسم الصدايق جواب كتابه الذي هو خطركم
 فلما شرفت عليه وعلا حساب موكه لاختطئه بكمال الكفره وختمته وحررت كتاب لجنابه
 ووضعته بطيحه وسلمته للشخص الذي هو من منظر الجواب وزاكن في شهر صفر ^{١٨٩٩} له
 مطابق في ^{١٨٩٩} له ولاكن لو اسعذ شاف مريحي كمال صابر له ناخير
 عن سفر وحال ابنا ريجه مع سكون الريح سافر ليحيط بذاكاث علمكم ودمتم سالمين
 ومخروسين والسلام محرم في شهر صفر ^{١٣١٧} له مطابق في ^{١٨٩٩} له
 معكم محمد محمد علي النجدي

Recd. at 12:55 pm

1844

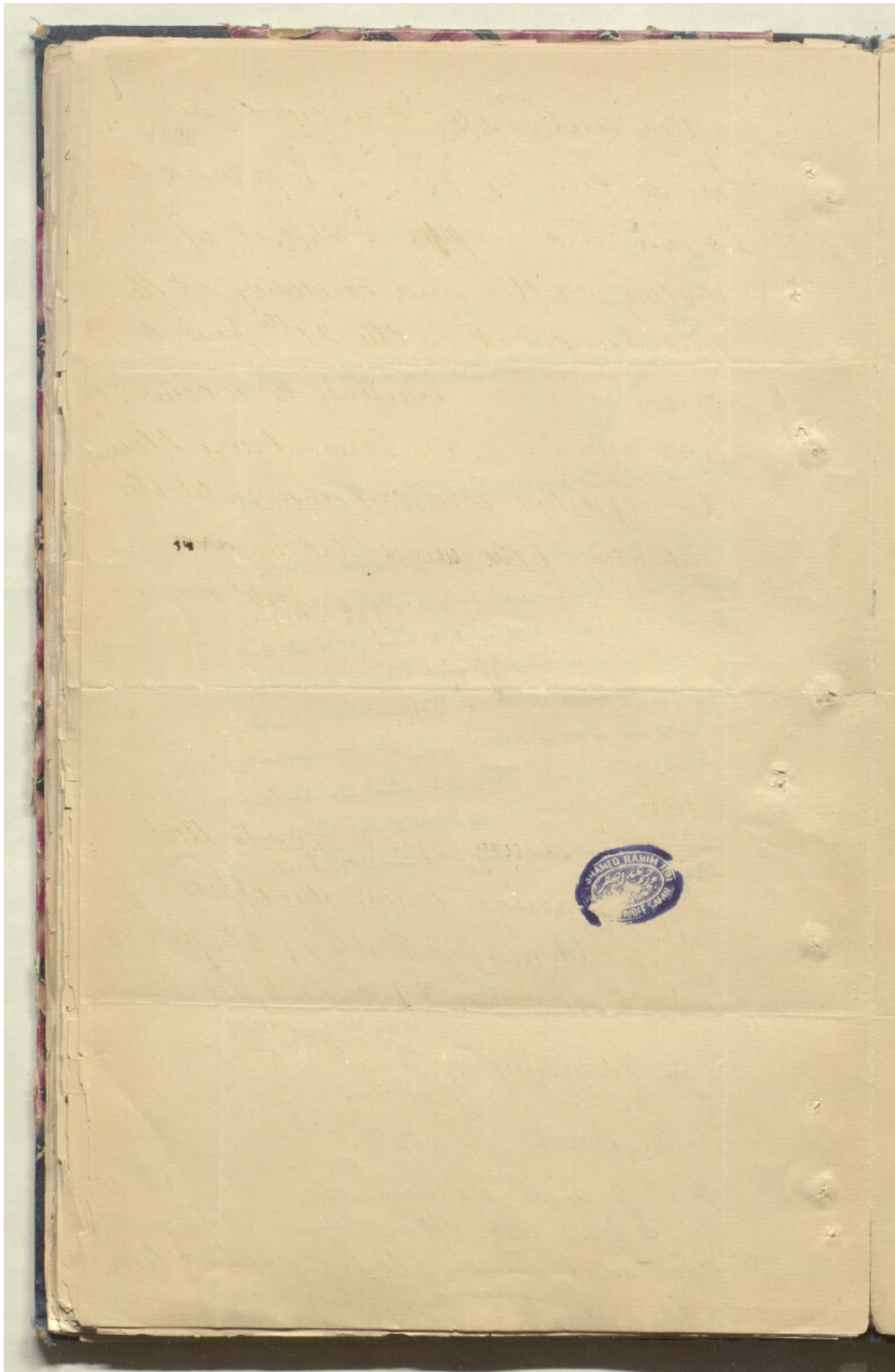
N^o. 49

30th June 1899.

From Residence Agent
Bahrain

To President

W. C. I have received your letter of 18th of June 1844. What you wrote is noted. You sent under flying seal a letter addressed to the friends in reply to the



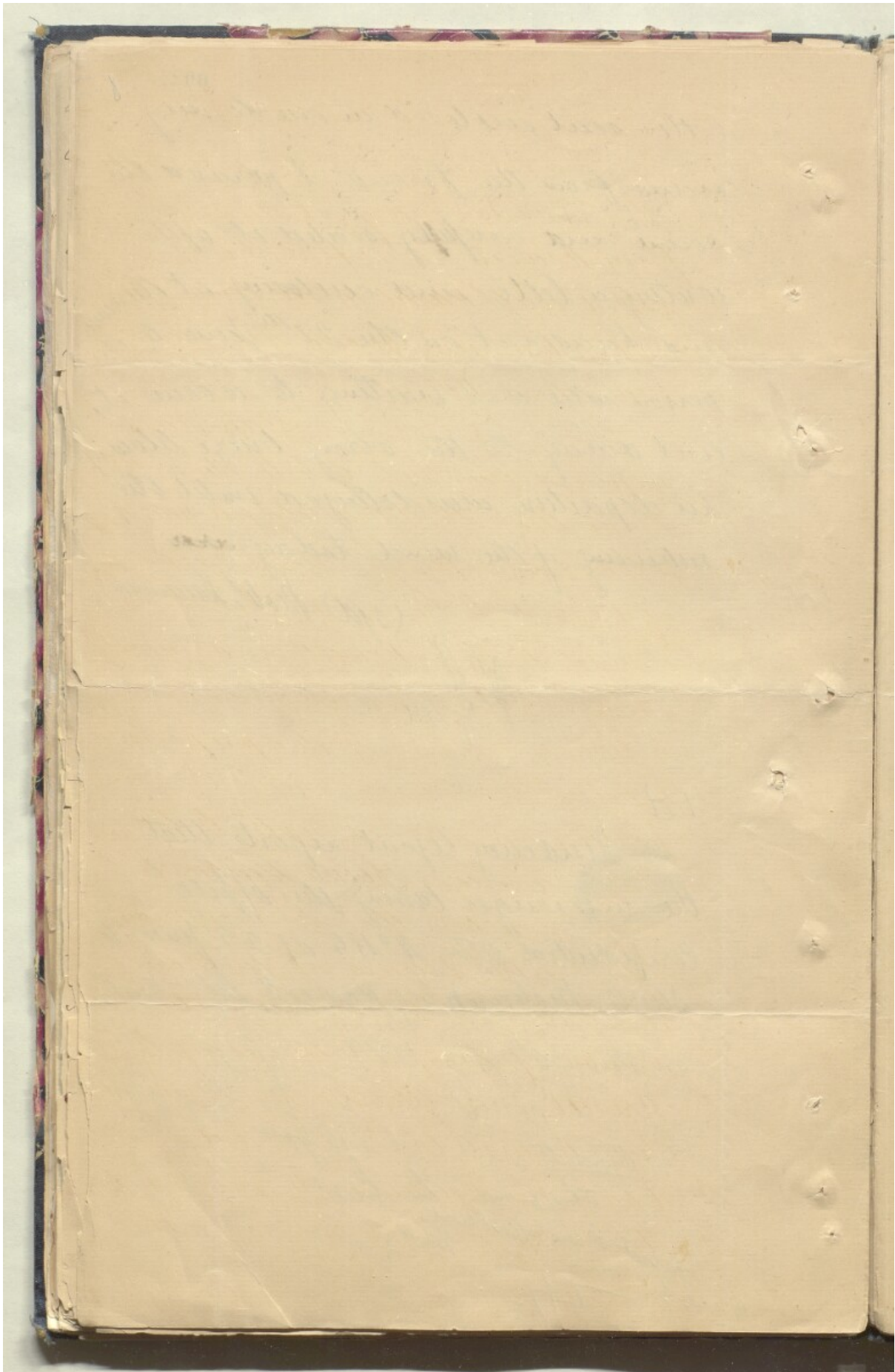
(Sgd) Robt. B. Williams

$\frac{3}{7}$ 99

Residency Agent reports that
the messenger taking this office
Confidential letter N.º 185 of 25 June to
Sheikh Mobarek of Koweit, left Basra
on the 30th June 1899. N4

1-10 priv. 27-99

Yes but so we're lost here ~~that~~ $\frac{3}{7}$ 99
 5000? — 4/7.





229
00214
Resident.

About 8 days ago I heard that Sayy Nassir had just arrived from Koweit I therefore at once asked M^{rs} W^hat to see him & find out what news he can get from him about Koweit.

He tells me that Sayy Nassir informed him that while there he heard that Sheikh Mubarek received a message from Hamud Pasha, Wali of Bushra to the effect that he desired to go to Koweit and meet Sheikh Mubarek with a view to settle the question of the properties between the various branches of the family and that in reply to the Wali's message Sheikh Mubarek informed him that he would meet him on the Island of "Faihuha" if so desired to save him the trouble of going all the way to Koweit; and that Sheikh Mubarek has launched two large sailing boats in readiness to proceed to Faihuha directly he hears the date of the Wali's proposed visit.



It is also reported that Sheikh Mabarek is saying that in accordance with the his father's Will, he & the brothers who are with him own 20 shares of the whole of the properties and the other faction of the family only one share.

I do not know how far the above information is true and possibly the Sheikh did not get the Wali's message until after he wrote his letter of the 5th June.

Your visit to Koweit in January last no doubt gave the Turks a good deal to think over and of course it is to their interests to find out what it was all about and probably they sent Hamdi Pasha back to Busra for that very reason, to ferret out what is going on. His visit to Koweit I think, may be taken for granted, is for the purpose of questioning Sheikh Mabarek. I hardly think that Hamdi Pasha would trouble himself to go to Koweit for the sole purpose of settling the question



230
00215
of the properties as it would be
more lucrative to himself &
his officials if he left the matter
to go through the Law Courts at
Bussrah.

I think however the Wali's
movements should be watched
and a Gunboat might go to Fao
in case any treachery is designed
against Sheikh Mabarek.

I am also informed that Sheikh
Mabarek with a view to further
strengthen his position and put
a stop to the constant petty
wars between the Matair tribe in
Sahassa and the Ayman tribe to
whom he is related by marriage,
has married a daughter of the
Sheikh of the Matair tribe and
reconciled the two tribes all of
whom have now taken up their
abode in the Koweit district.

YH
28/6/99
Dear Sir deans

Please see above - Perhaps
we might send the Shilp over



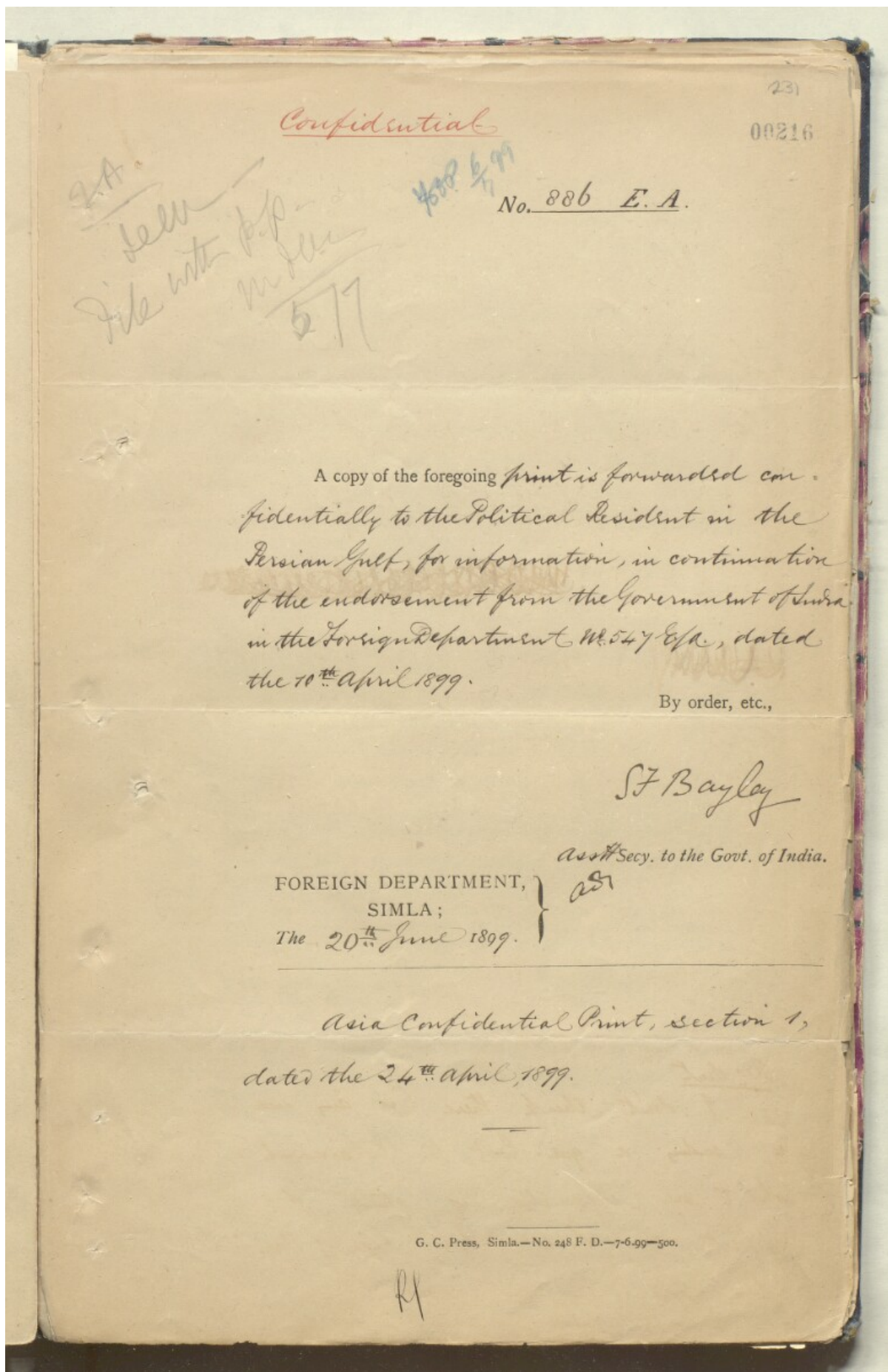
to Mohamrah - but there is the quarantine
question. It would not be much use here
saying if the cannot communicate
like the others - By the way did I find
Jon M^c Donald's last letter saying he had
received mine? ~~What a pity that I have not~~
~~received it~~ If you have it please send
it & pp. over I intend writing D.O. to
Sir H. H. D. by the Korrid on subject
of A.C.'s visit to the - Jrs

W.H. 29-6-99

Will write D.O. to Sir H.
about this by
next mail
W.H.
30/6-

Resident
I don't think there is any use
in sending a gun-boat to Mohamrah
whilst our information is still so
indefinite. we should probably hear of Hamdi
Pasha's movements in quite enough time.

W.H. 29/6/99



A copy of the foregoing *print* is forwarded *con-*
fidentially to the Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation
of the endorsement from the Government of India
in the Foreign Department M. 547 E/A, dated
the 10th April 1899.

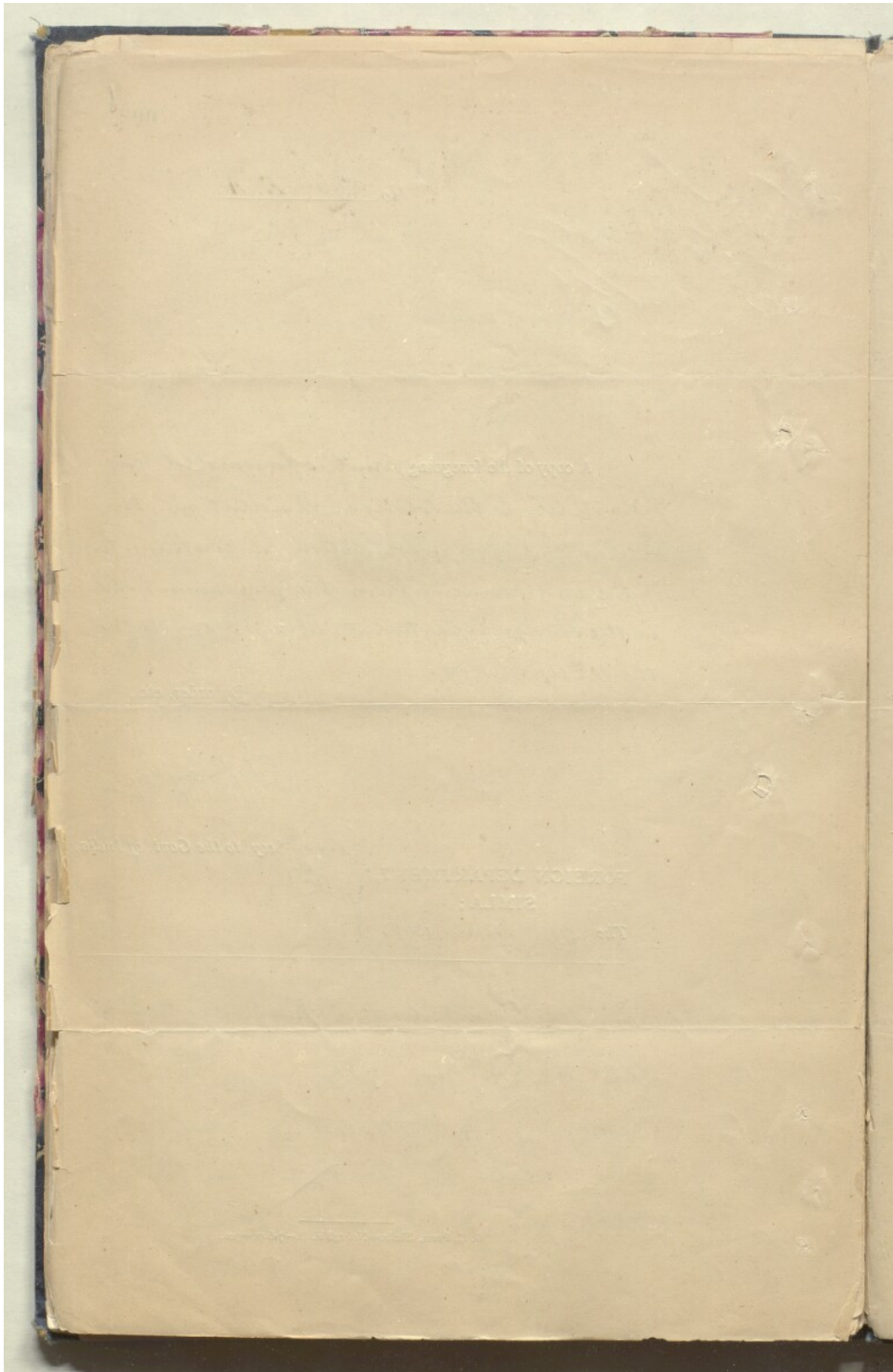
By order, etc.,

SF Bayley

Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
The 20th June 1899.

Asia Confidential Print, section 1,
dated the 24th April, 1899.





[This Document is the Property of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.]

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00217

ASIA.

[April 24.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 194. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 20, 1899.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18, Confidential, of the 18th January, I have the honour to transmit copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Weakley, Commercial Attaché, on the negotiations which appear to be still proceeding with the Sublime Porte for the grant of the Concession for the railway from Tripoli in Syria to the Persian Gulf.

It is stated in this Memorandum that Mr. Meyers has retired from the concern; that the Company to which he belonged has been recast under the style of Messrs. Williams, de Broé, and Co.; that a powerful Syndicate, enjoying the support of Messrs. Rothschild and other well-known financiers, has promised its co-operation, and that, in order to remove the apprehension of a Russian control, Count Kapnist is to be induced to sell his interest in the line.

M. Rechnitzer, an Austrian subject, represents the firm at Constantinople, and the project is under examination in the Turkish Ministry of Public Works.

I have expressed my views fully on the subject of this scheme in my above-mentioned despatch and in my previous reports. The withdrawal of the Russian element puts a somewhat different complexion upon it, but the information at my disposal is not yet sufficiently complete to enable me to form a final judgment. I should be glad to learn from your Lordship whether the strong financial support of which the Company boasts is really behind it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memorandum by Mr. Weakley.

(Confidential.)

I HAVE been able to obtain the following information from Mr. Pears regarding the present position of Count Kapnist's scheme for building a railway from Tripoli in Syria to Koweit.

Mr. Meyers, of the firm of Messrs. Williams, Meyers, and Co., who, in conjunction with M. Rechnitzer, came to Constantinople last October to facilitate the negotiations carried on by Count Kapnist with the Sublime Porte, has now ceased to be a member of the firm. The new firm, under the style of Messrs. Williams, de Broé, and Co., continue to take an active interest in the scheme, and have formed a Syndicate composed of the following business houses established in London, to support the project:—

The Exploration Company.
Messrs. Matheson and Co.
Messrs. Rosenthal and Co.
Messrs. S. Neumann and Co.
Messrs. A. G. Schiff and Co.

These houses have also been able to enlist the support and co-operation of the following financial people:—

N. M. Rothschild.
Lord Revelstoke (of Baring's).
Morgan's.
Bleichröder.
Disconto Gesellschaft.
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

This Syndicate is represented by M. Rechnitzer in Constantinople.

[1787 q—1]



In the interest of furthering the negotiations with the Turkish authorities, it has been deemed advisable to induce Count Kapnist to give up his interest in the project, and this he has consented to do, in return for a substantial consideration. Count Kapnist has, consequently, drawn up a declaration, in which he states that he has hitherto been acting on behalf of an English Syndicate, and that having ceased to have any further interest in the Concession applied for, he resigns all his rights in favour of M. Rechnitzer, the representative of the Syndicate, who in future is to be considered the real concessionnaire. This declaration will be presented to the Ministry of Public Works as soon as the terms upon which Count Kapnist gives up his interest have been agreed to.

M. Rechnitzer has obtained a letter of introduction from the Austrian Foreign Office to the Austrian Ambassador in Constantinople, but I understand M. Rechnitzer has not yet presented it. Mr. Block informs me that letters have also been received from Messrs. Rothschild by the Sublime Porte, recommending M. Rechnitzer.

The draft Convention for the proposed railway has been drawn up by Mr. Alexander Henderson, M.P., and has been submitted to the Ministry of Public Works, where it is now being examined and discussed in detail.

The demand for a kilometric guarantee has not been accepted by the Turkish authorities, but that a proposal for guaranteeing the line, out of the increase of the tithe revenue of the districts through which the railway will pass, has been favourably entertained.

(Signed) ERNEST WEAKLEY.

Constantinople, April 18, 1899.



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00218

Confidential

Bushire
14 July 1899

My dear Wratulaw

I have heard lately
fr Govt that "it is not considered
necessary at present to give any
warning to the Porte (about Koweit)
"but ^{Wratulaw} will hint to Hamdi when
"occasion offers that to attack Koweit
"would get him into trouble."

You will probably have received
instructions, ere this, fr Constantinople
on this point.

I hear that Hamdi Pasha told the
Sherkh that he wd like to go
& pay him a visit to discuss
the question of the estates in
the Busrah Dist. Is there any
truth in this?

It is also reported that the Sherkh
is in communication with the ^{Suadean}
Family of the Montifik tribe of Arabs
who own property on the Shat
ul Arat and elsewhere & that
they talk of throwing up Turkish
rule & going to live at Koweit.
I have written to Mubarrak &

told



told him to keep quiet, &
if you hear of any nonsense
of the sort please let me
know.

I hope to get off soon to Karachi
but much will depend on
the course the plague takes.
It seems to have died out
a good deal just now.

7.A.
Kindly make this
copy of mine
of this & please
it is a relief
them into
J. A. 234
I will send
to you
BRITISH CONSULATE, 21/7
BUSSORAH.
July 7. 99

My dear Colonel,

Yes, I am to give
Hamdi a hint when he
next broaches the subject
of K. It is rather a delicate
job, is it not?

I have heard nothing
about Hamdi's proposed
visit to Koweit to settle
the question of the estates,

up a livelihood at Koweit
(Ed) Uratichaw



him to keep quiet, &
hear of any nonsense
so please let me

to get off soon to Karachi
much will depend on
how the plague takes
seems to have died out
to deal just now.

And doubt whether there is
any truth in the report.
Mutarch's brother Hamoud
is here, endeavouring to
come to terms with the
rebellious. Having apparently
failed, he sent word some
on Tuesday that he would
like me to intervene to
help him. I told the
messenger to come back on
Saturday for an answer, &

at once wired the Ambassador
for instructions, expressing
my opinion that I had
better not interfere. H.E.
has evidently referred the
question home, as I have as
yet rec'd no answer.

I have heard nothing
about the proposed
emigration of Arabs from
Muntepik district, but
will inquire. It does not
sound likely, and I don't
see how they would pick
up a livelihood at Koweit
(Ed) Uratislaw



N^o 84

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00219

7th July 99

From Residency Agent, Bahrein
To Resident.
Aga.

Enclosed will reach you the letter I have received from Sheikh Mubarak Al Subah together with its enclosure sent with Haji Ali bin Ghoban.

In his said letter is an order to hand over the Rs 15,000 of which you are aware, to the said person who will take his departure in a day or two as he has some private business of his own to do, and when leaving I will secretly hand the same over to him at night and take receipt from him.

In the enclosure to his said letter is stated ~~the~~ what is occurring at his end in these days regarding the dispute between him & his nephews and Cousins in the matter of their shares in the properties and that he has sent his brother Hamood with the person who went to him from the Wali of Busrah, who is an influential of Busrah, for the purpose of interviewing ~~up~~ the said Wali in reference to the dispute. According to what he states he has instructed him to communicate with the British Consul at Busrah secretly



and he (Sheikh) trusts that you will
inform the Consul to support him.

If it meets with your views ~~herewith~~
and you approve, will you write to
Sheikh Mubarek a reply through me
or instruct me to communicate
with him as you may see proper.

It will give him the greatest pleasure.

With reference to his coming to
Bahrein it appears from the enclosure
to the letter to you, that he has given
up the idea.

(Sgd) Mub^d Ralim

JCM
13/7/94



عبدالمجید

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حضرت مولانا محمد عظیم الدین صاحب مدرسہ اسلامیہ، لاہور، پاکستان

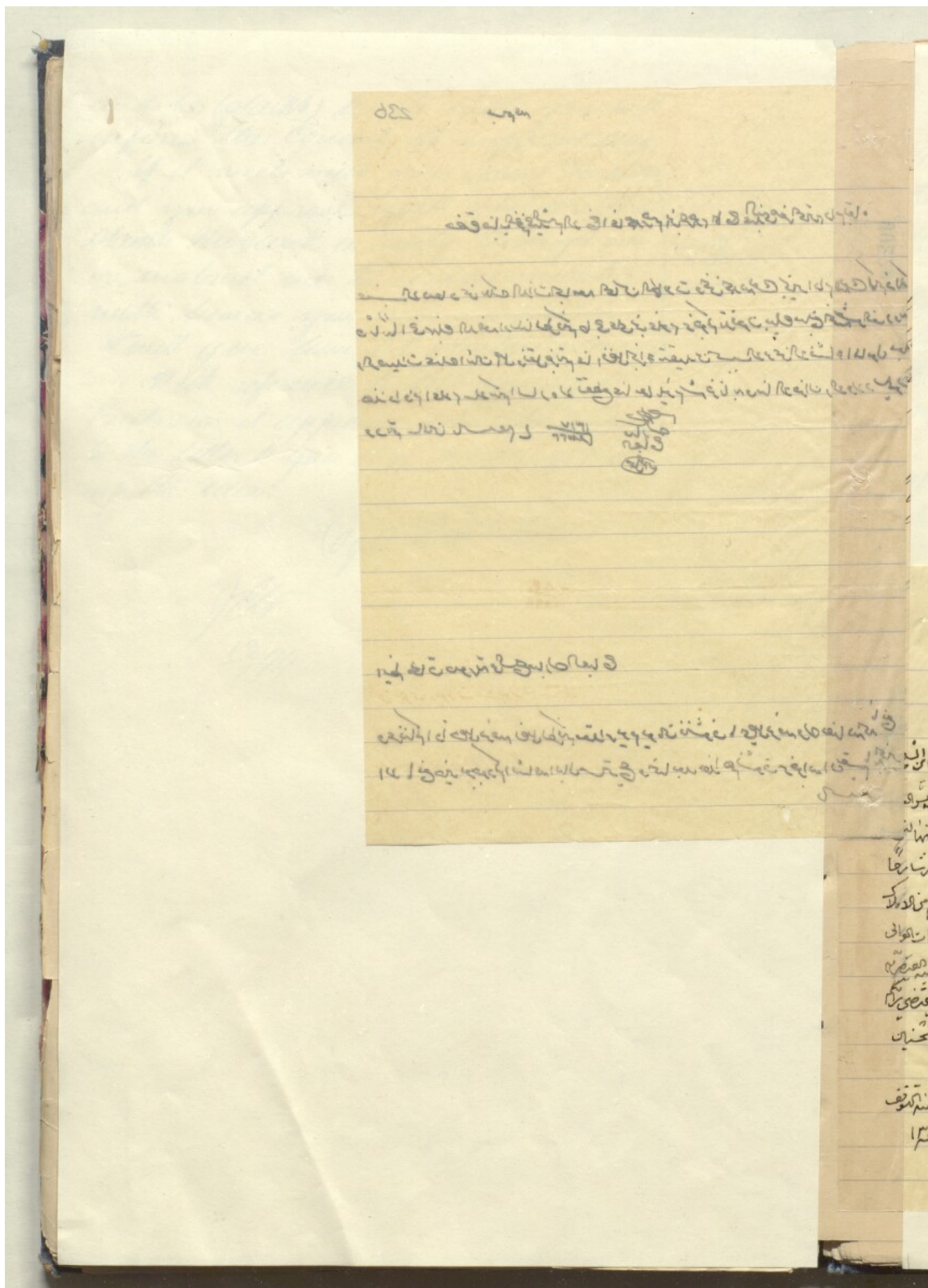
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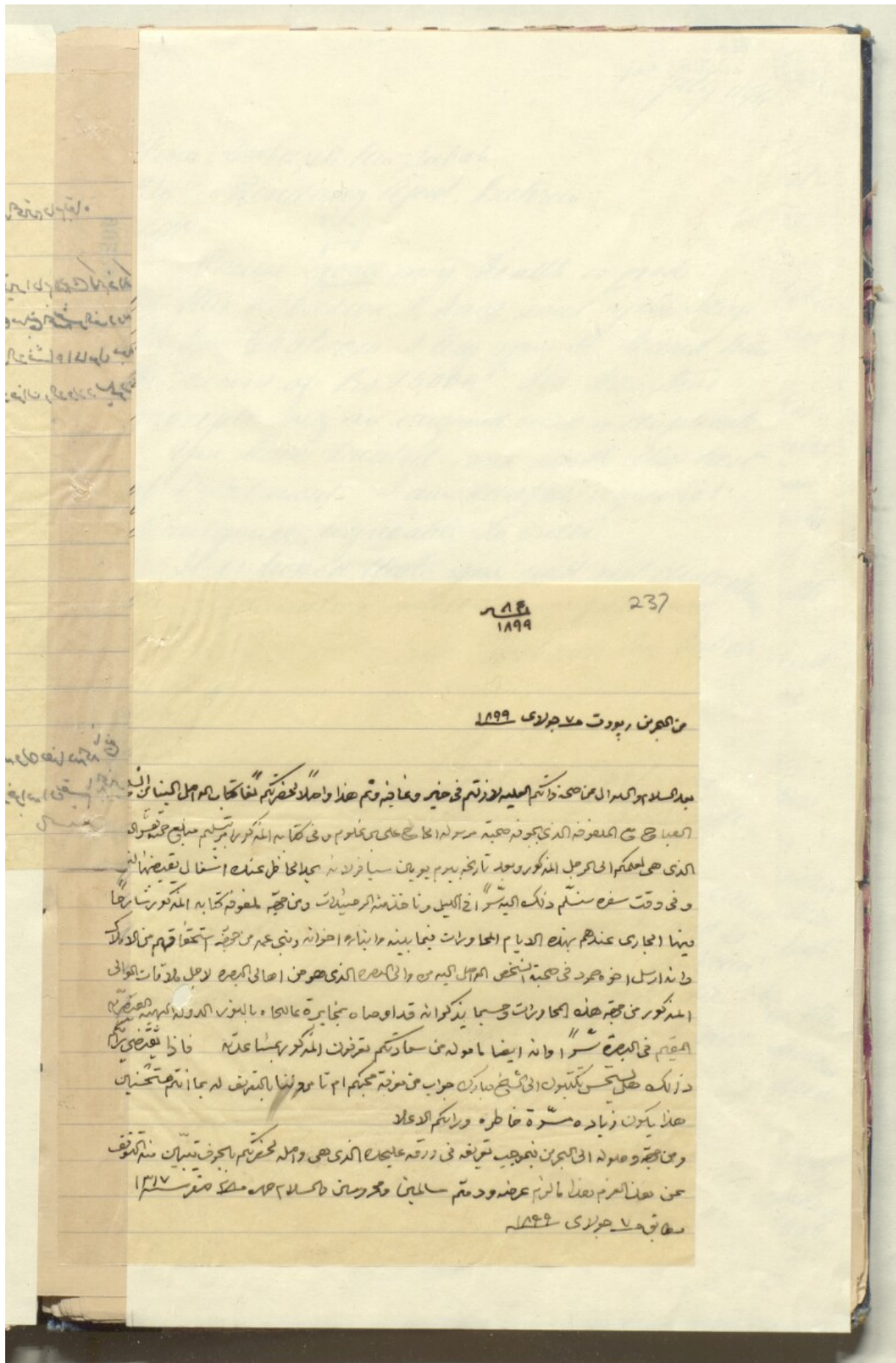
سار
مبارک
محمد

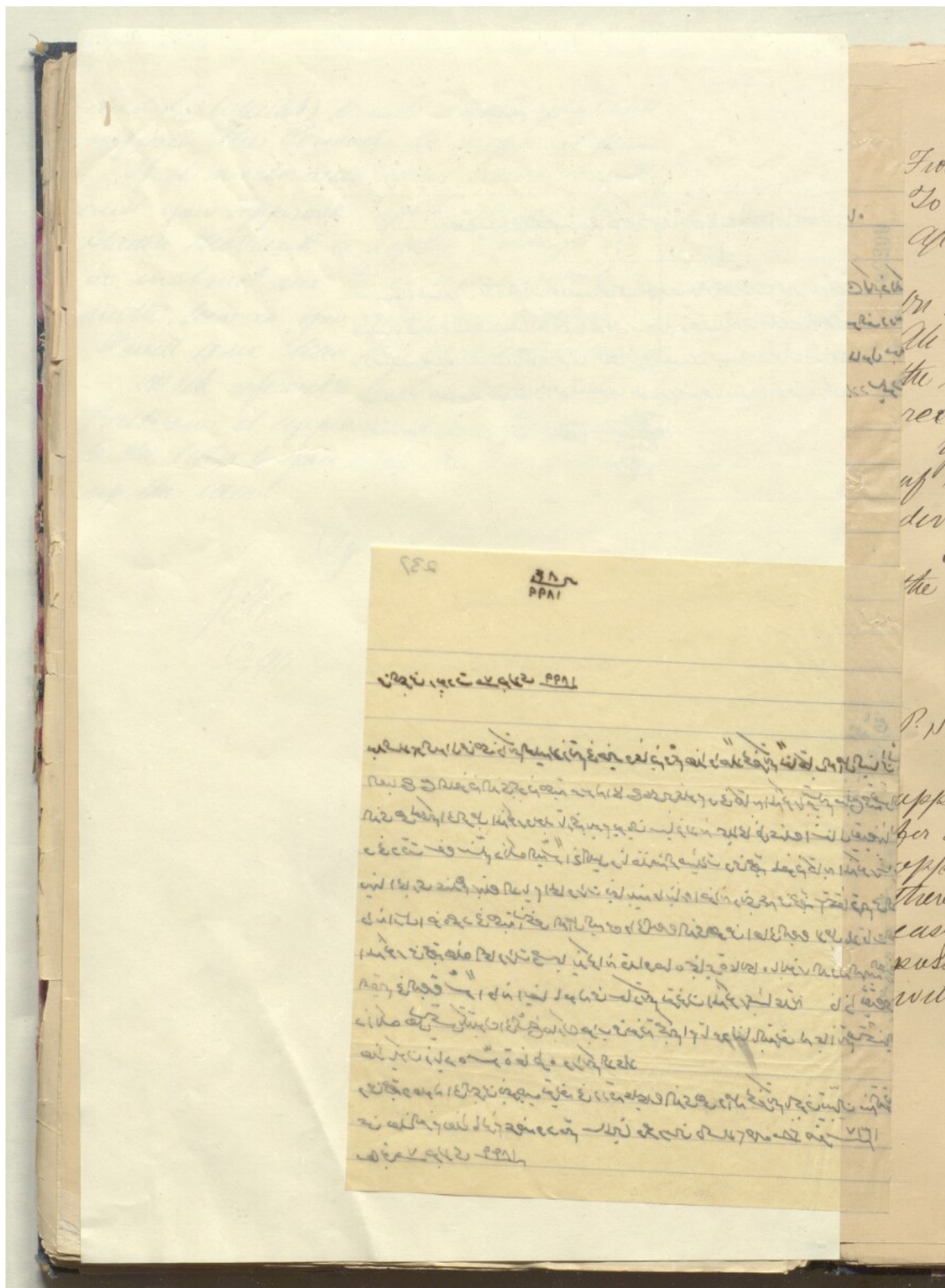
1514
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ایک ملحق صورتہ صحیح مبارک العباد

و عن قناتكم اذا جعلت غرضه لعل نظركم مقدار يومين فاشوف اي عمل غرضه ولا نقض الله كذا
الا اني حين يوجعكم و تشاءه ابلال مستريح و شما بعد هذا هم فاشوف سر خواصه ان قسم









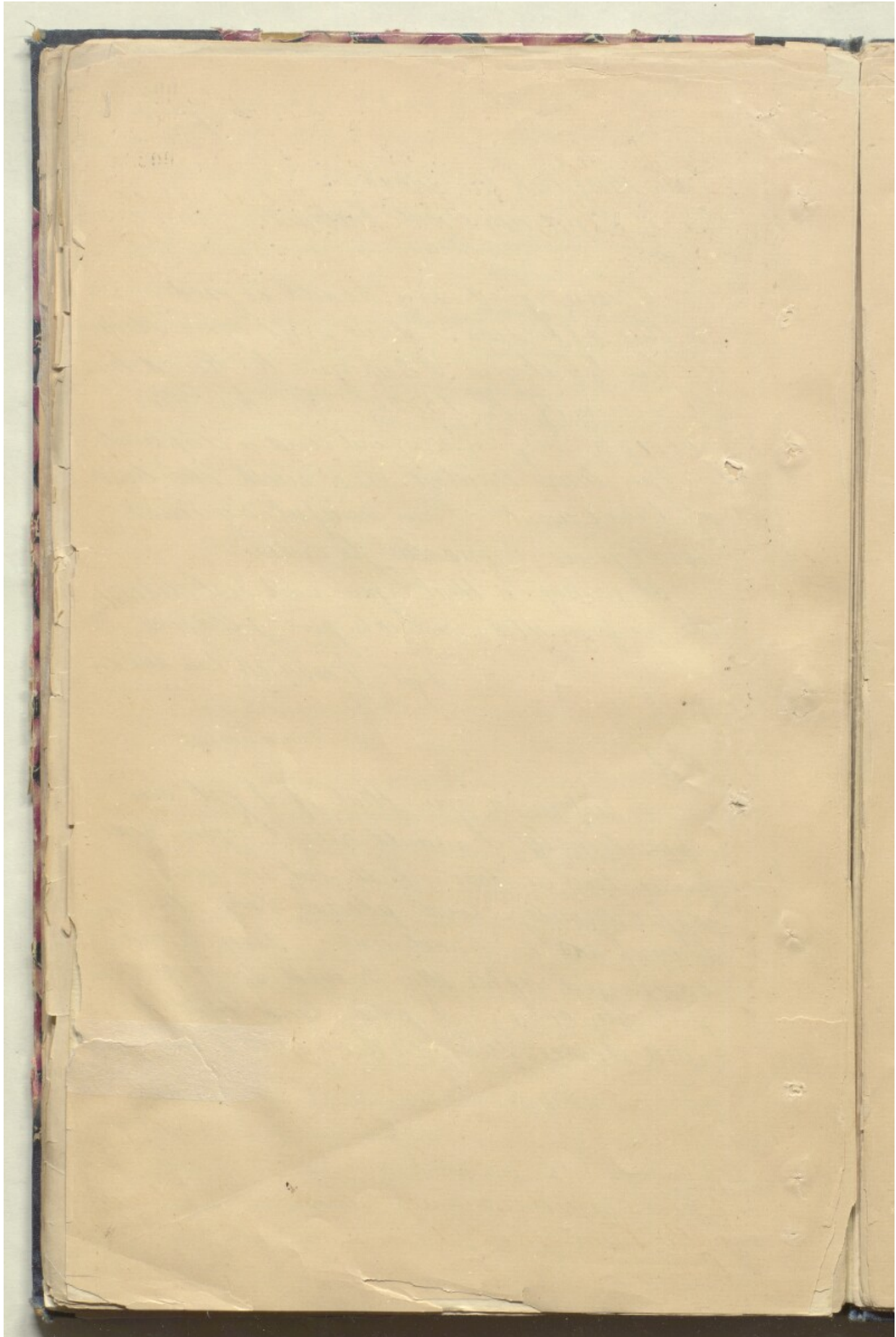
238
1st July 1899

From Mubarak bin Subah
To Residency Agent Bahrain
ap.

Praise good my health is good.
On this occasion I have sent you Saifi
Ali bin Ghaloom. I beg you to hand him
the sum of Rs 15000. He has two
receipts viz an original and a duplicate.
You have treated me with the best
of treatment. I am careful against
divulgence, agreeable to order.
It is hoped that you will not discontinue
the information which give pleasure.
sgd Mubarak bin Subah.

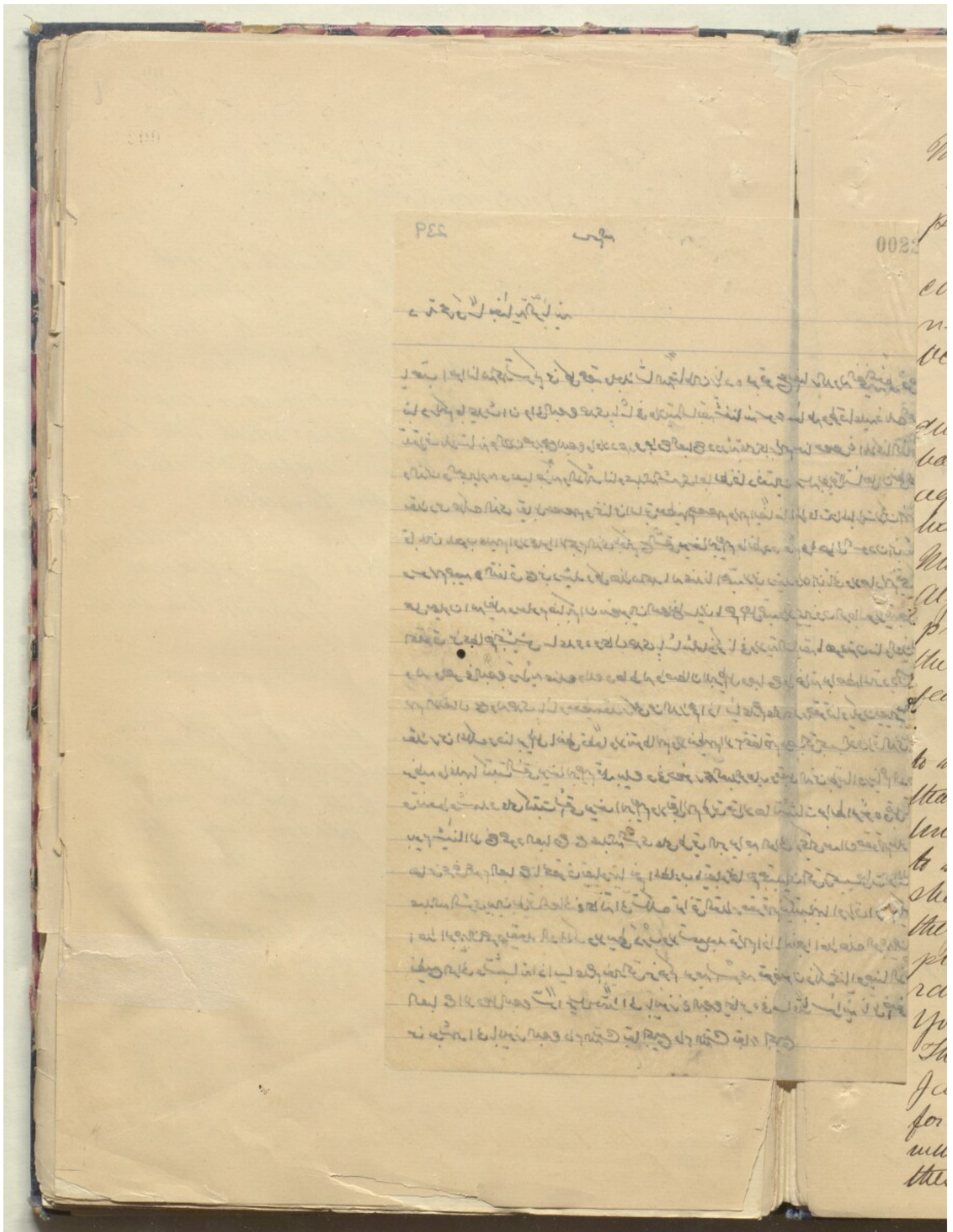
P.S.

I informed you that if I got an
opportunity I would visit your side
for a day or two. I do not see an
opportunity and please God the cause
thereof is a good one. My mind is
easy and after this I will see (if I can
possibly come) I pray God that he
will decree that which will bring good.



بسم الله

يا حبيب اهل الناحية كذا تسلم من كل جهة وبعد ان شئت اطلب اياه فترجو عنهما ردك له في حقك فويل
 لنا وياكم ما يحدث ان والى البصر عدى باسنى وانه قد سبقه شغفنا سوء معاملته وطرقا عليه ذلك فلو
 نكروا عنه بل شانه واكثر من ذلك من عرج البصر واولاد دعه ورجوع الصباغ وورثته على ما لم يمنحنا حصة من اموالنا الا ان
 والذين في العجوة ٨٠ وبعيا جزمه واكثر لنا وعبد الله شمس ابا لطفنا وقد عين من له بقرى الناحية ان لم يخلو
 معن دس عليه الذي يقابل حصصهم ونمنا في السابق عطيتهم حصصهم ولهم ايضا الحوافر والمباريات ولكن انهم
 قابلان لمحبوب عليهم واولادهموا الاجرم الذي لم يمتحى من شقي مرفعا اليهم وانظروا فيهم واولادهم واولادهم
 وسواهم جميعه والتفاق في بن رشيد وكل هذا قد علمه عندنا اهية لاني رشيد وبن رشيد واولادهم في كل
 على ما هو انهم يغفروا معلوم فانه ان من يهرب من الدنيا في سائر ما هم على قبة ولا يميزون اهل العرواية فحين
 الحقيق من عظمهم بمشقة ساعده ورجال عدى باسنى اذ كانوا في ودية السابقة ما هو من منا والذين
 ولهم وهو في البصر ولا يميزه ذلك وحاظ له وحاظك للبريل وصباح واخوته بواصطه المندوبين
 لهم الاتصال في ولد عدى باسنى وعطيتهم قدرتي من الدرهم اذا يساعدهم على عذر حقوتنا ويكون يصير
 معذرين من الملك وحاظ لبريل اصفى قطعوا ولا نترطاهم ولا نطعمهم الا تحقوا من حبلى كجس العرواية التي
 مرفعة وان عليها كسبت الشقي مرفعا لهم قبل بيلع وفي حضور محمد بن عبد الله وقيل الدين بطونان وبنهايم الدول
 في تندر وشمس على كسبت الشقي يوسف البرهم ولا يقبل الام طين من اهلها تشنات مراط المرفوعة في كل اربعة
 بيوم شيئا الا في حدود الصباغ مع عبد الله الشقي على طين البرهم اجم الكواوي وكما يمد الله حقوقهم منهم
 هاهن عرجي عوم الصباغ تاخفوق يقابلونها في المطلوب ايقابلونها هم محمد بن اكن في حبيب علي الكواوي
 عبد الله الشقي بين بطون الكواوي في اكله اني تسلكه تراق القطار معقوتهم فيكسبها اوراق اوقاف يكون
 اهل البرهم انهم ويقعد الدندك ولا يسلط في درب ولا تسلم بعد قوتهم اذا ما انجبا اهل هذه الوعدان
 لطيف الكواوي وتشبهنا اذا يساعدهم بعد اكن في حرمهم بوجههم تعرضون ذلك تخا وبعنا الذي
 الصباغ الا على البصر شرا بيل حقا الى باليون في البصر يخافه في ما قبل سرانية نال اصفى
 من يوشى الى باليون البصر حام اللهج بعا كجس حام اللهج بقاء اكجس





242
240
00224

My friend

My condition in every respect
please God will give you pleasure
God willing I trust in greater
considerations of the Government and it is
necessary to acquaint you with what
occurs.

The Wali of Busrah Haindi Pasha
during his former Maliship I experienced
bad treatment and I sent a telegram
against him to Constantinople. Now he
has returned to Busrah and the sons of
Mohamed and Ferrah and the heirs of Ali
Aljabin have shares with me in the
properties of Fao, and Sofia, Yam and
the Opairawich. They (ie their shares) are
few and the majority are mine.

Al-dullah al-Mushri has twice come
to this side, being sent to simplify matters
that I may give to sons (of my brother &
uncle) a portion of the properties equivalent
to their shares. I formerly gave them their
shares and they have my consideration; but
they are not satisfied. They are being
played with. First they instigated the
raid known to you, with the mischievous
Yousef bin Ibrahim, and were repulsed.
Then they went to the black-faced
Jassim bin Shami who called a host
for them, and arranged an understanding
with Bin Rashid. I thank God that
these have no consideration with me



and they have gained nothing. What
ever they do God will destroy it. You
know that the Turkish officials are
corrupt and have no jealousy and do
not weigh the man or follow the rights of
the people. Who ever bribes them they will
give him support.

Now Haurdi Pasha, as I have stated,
was not pleased with me during his former
Vasiship. He has his son with him at
Busrah and he is governed by his son who
has intermediaries for arranging bribes. Subah
and his brother (i.e. the Sheikh's nephews) through
the intermediaries have got up and acquaintance
with Haurdi Pasha's son and have given him
a large sum of money to assist them in
the ~~operations~~ ^{operations} against my rights and to get hold of some
of the property. I do not give bribes at
all and do not make promises and do not
give them ^(i.e. Nephews & Cousins) anything except their rightful dues.
According to justice agreeable to documents
between existing between us, the majority
of which are in the writing of the wicked
Yousef bin Ibrahim. In the presence of ~~Mohd~~
Abdulwahab and Muhib here I showed
them the documents and they were satisfied
and testified to the writings of the
wicked Yousef bin Ibrahim and they have
no just way or means except grasping
through bribery.

Yesterday I sent my brother Hamood
Al-Subah with Abdullah al-Mishri overland
to meet the Wali and ^{tell} speak with him that

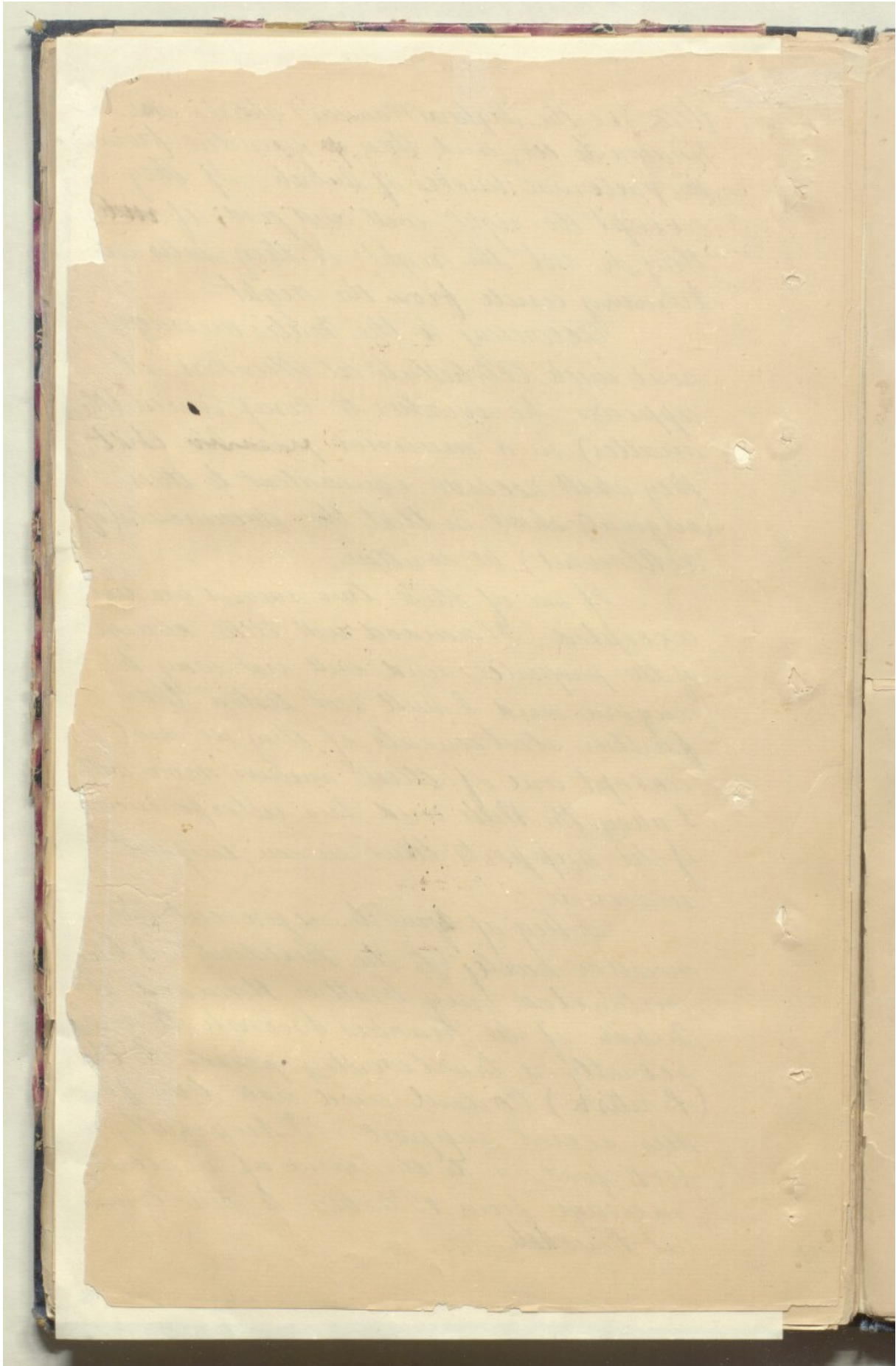
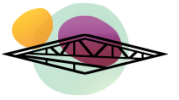


242
00226
241
them (i.e. the Nephews & Cousins) shares ~~are~~^{are} known to us; and they ~~are~~^{are} decuded from the paternal line of Subah. If they accept the right, well and good; if ~~not~~^{not} they do not the right, if they who are turning aside from the right.

According to the Wali's message sent with Abdallah al-Mishri it appears he wishes to compromise (the matter) in a manner ~~possible~~^{possible} that they shall receive equivalent to their (original) share so that the documents (of settlement) be written.

If one of these two means are not accepted Hamood will take charge of the properties and will not way to anyone and I will not listen their further statements if they do not accept one of these means, nor will I obey the Wali and his interference if he supports them in an unjust manner.

I beg of you to represent the matter early (to the Resident. I have instructed my brother Hamood-al-Subah if he reaches Busrah to send secretly a trustworthy person to the (British) Consul and ask him for his secret support. I hopefully look forward to the issue of a secret message from Busrah to the Consul at Busrah.





242

00226

٨٩
١٨٩٩

من كبريت في خليج فارس

من كبريت من بولت في يوليو ١٨٩٩

حضر جناب العالين الجاه ذوي الشوك والاحلال الاكرم الاشم الكرميل بيد بالبور وفول ضلال الكرم

دام بحك امين بعد السلام وسؤال عن صحة ذائقكم عليه لانتم في خبر وعافيه وذهابا واما
لحظركم لفا كتاب الواصل كينا من الشيخ مبارك الصباح مع اللغوفة الذي بجوفه حجة من حوله الحاج
علي من علوم وفي كتابه المذكور من بيلم مبلغ خمسة عشر الف وروبيه الذي هي اعلم الى الرجل المذكور
ولقد من بجه بيوم ولومين سياتر لانه بحال الحاضر عند اشغال ليفضها النفس وفي وقت سفره
سنم ذلك اليه سر في الليل واخذ منه الرصيدات ومن جهة ملغوفة كتابه المذكور شامرا
فيها الجاري عندهم بجه الايام الحار والبرق فيما بينه وابناء اخوانه وبني عمه من جهة استخفافهم من
اله ملاك وانما امرسل اخو حمود في حجة الشخص الواصل اليه من ولي البصر الذي هو من اهالي البصر
لاجل ملاقات كولي المذكور من جهة هذه الحار والبرق وصحابة كرامة فداوماه بخابره عالى الجاه بالبور
الدوله كهيئة القنصلية في البصر سر وانما ايضا ما موله من سعادكم تعرفون المذكور بمساعدته
فاذا ليفضلي بكم ذالك هل يستحسن بكنونك الى الشيخ مبارك جواب من معرفة بحكم
ام نامر ونا بالمرافق له بما انتم مستحقين هذا يكون زيادة مسرة خاطر ومرايكم الاعلاء
ومن جهة وصوله الى كبريت فيموجب لغيره في ورقه على الذي هي واصله لحظركم الجوف
يبين منه التوقف عن هذا العزم هذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم سالمين ومحروسين والسلام
حرم ١٧ شهر صفر ١٣١٧ مطابق ٧ شهر جوالى ١٨٩٩

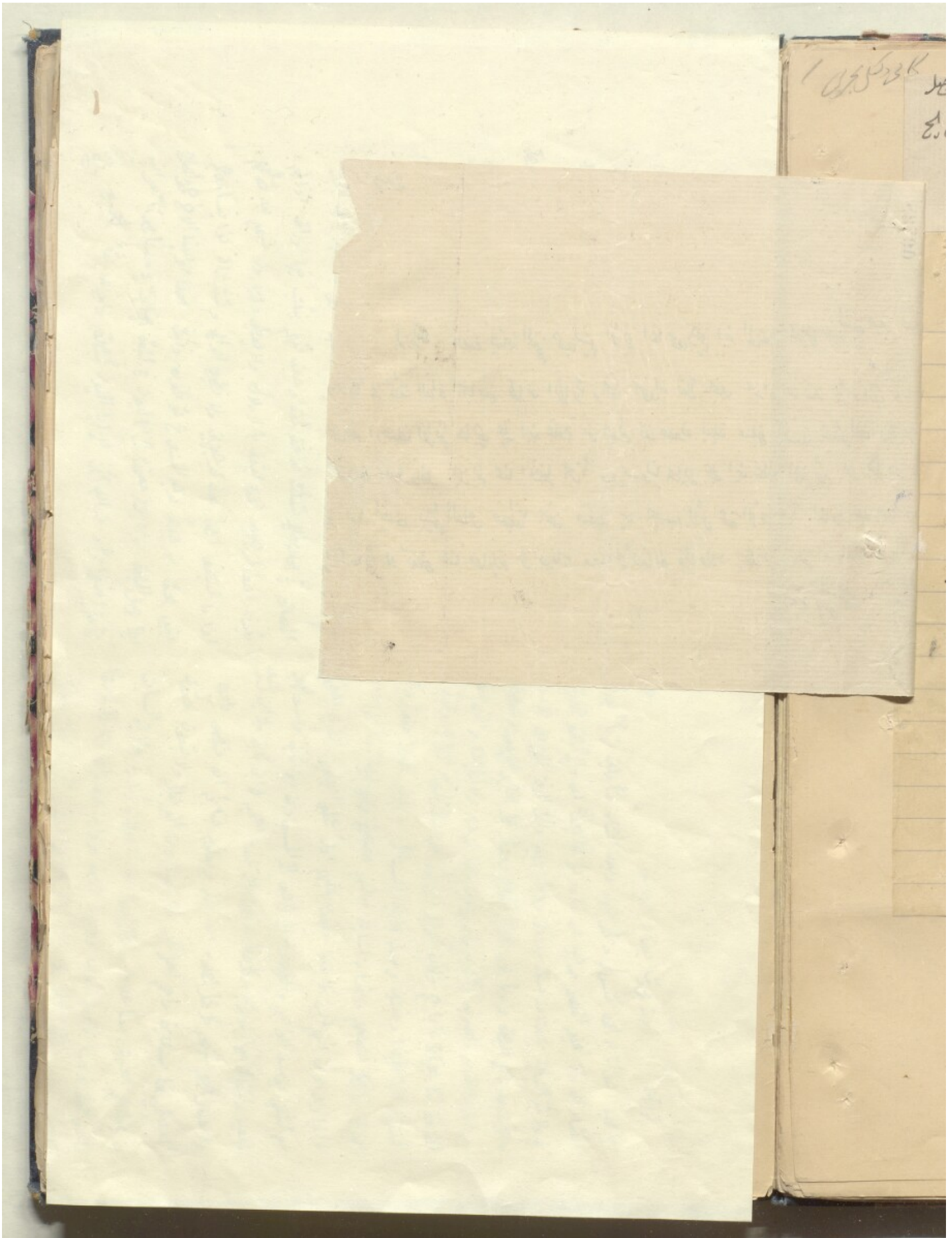


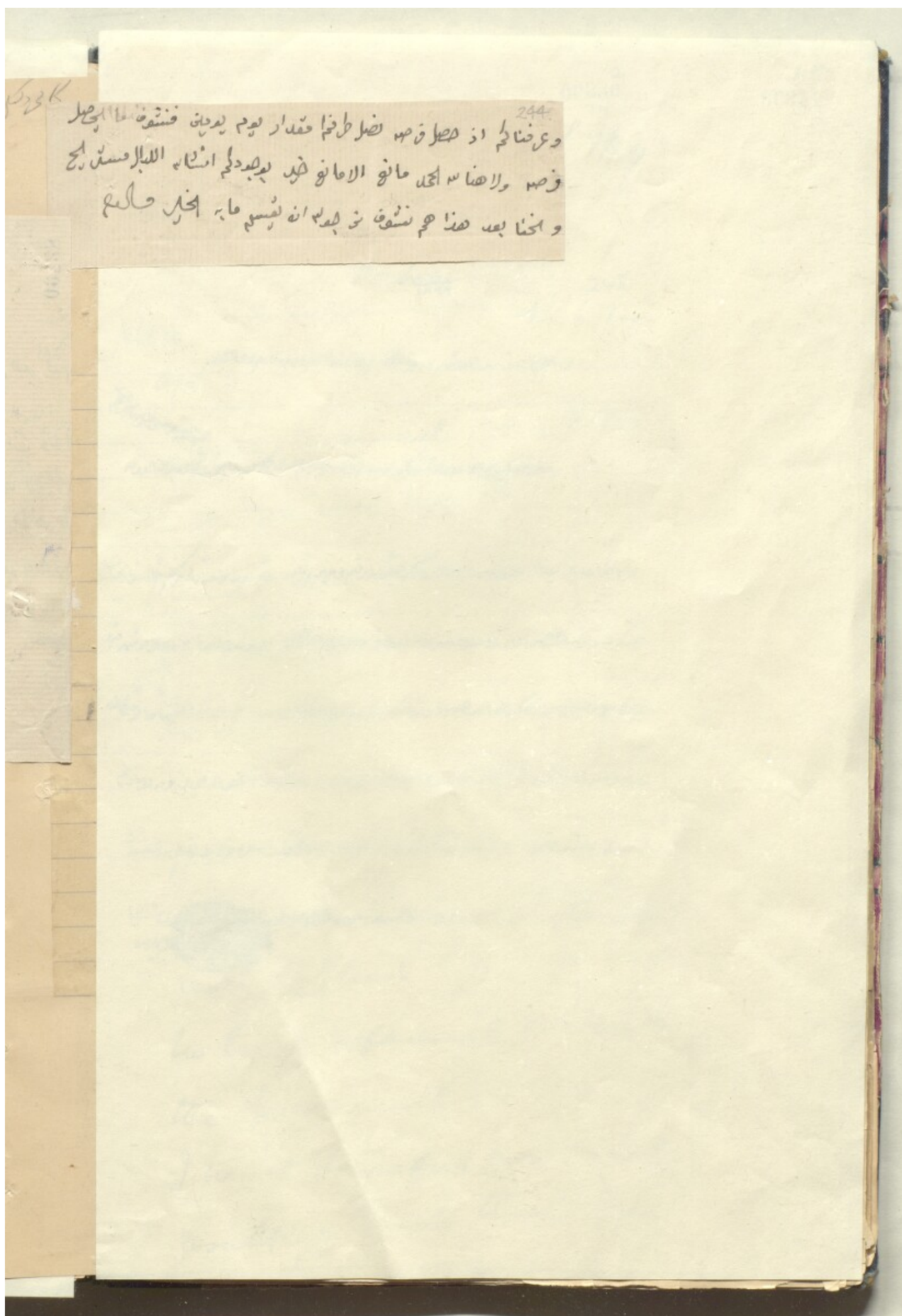
نصار مع ولد عددي بنت وصفيته صدار طليح من الدرام اذا يسا عد هم
على قدر همتنا وليناهن بين هم صدار من الملة و اختا بر اظهر ما نفعني
نظما ولا نفع طالمهم ولا نفعهم الا استحقاقهم صديقت اخي اجيب الوراق
الذي يستنا ونظير و اخبرها لبنت الشقي بنت الالهيم فلم يده وفي ظنهم تحميد
وميل ان لا يلطفوا لورينا هم الوراق وقصه وشهد وعلمنا رايهم بيعه مستأ
ولا ياتي لهم طاريق لنا الاوها لبنتنا بد صطرا الوشع وقولنا رايهم بيعه مستأ
الوراق حمد الصالح مع علي السري على طاريق البدر ما به الوراق واجلي هم انصفهم
صمت عننا عما نري من نعم الصالح با اجفوت بيلوننا في المظالم ما بيلوننا
هم محبين اخي و احب وصات الوراقنا مع عياله الذي يبيع سبي لباري
الصالح في اكلنا الى سلكه نأخذ لصفه صدم نيلت فيها اوراق اذا هم
ليمنه احد لو جهين كمد يمينه با ارملاك ولا يطيح درب ولا تسع صدمهم
اذا ما كبته احدا صدمه لو جهين ولا يطيح الوراق و شتات اذا يسا عد هم
بقيت اخي نر هديكم بوجه السمع لو نطقه ذلك اخنا وصينا الوراق كوصا
ايلا وصل البعثة سرا يترفعون الى الامير في اهلهم اخاير في مساهدنا سويهم
تا مل ارضنا وكم من اهلنا كل ال ابا المير ليهن داهمه بقا اجمع

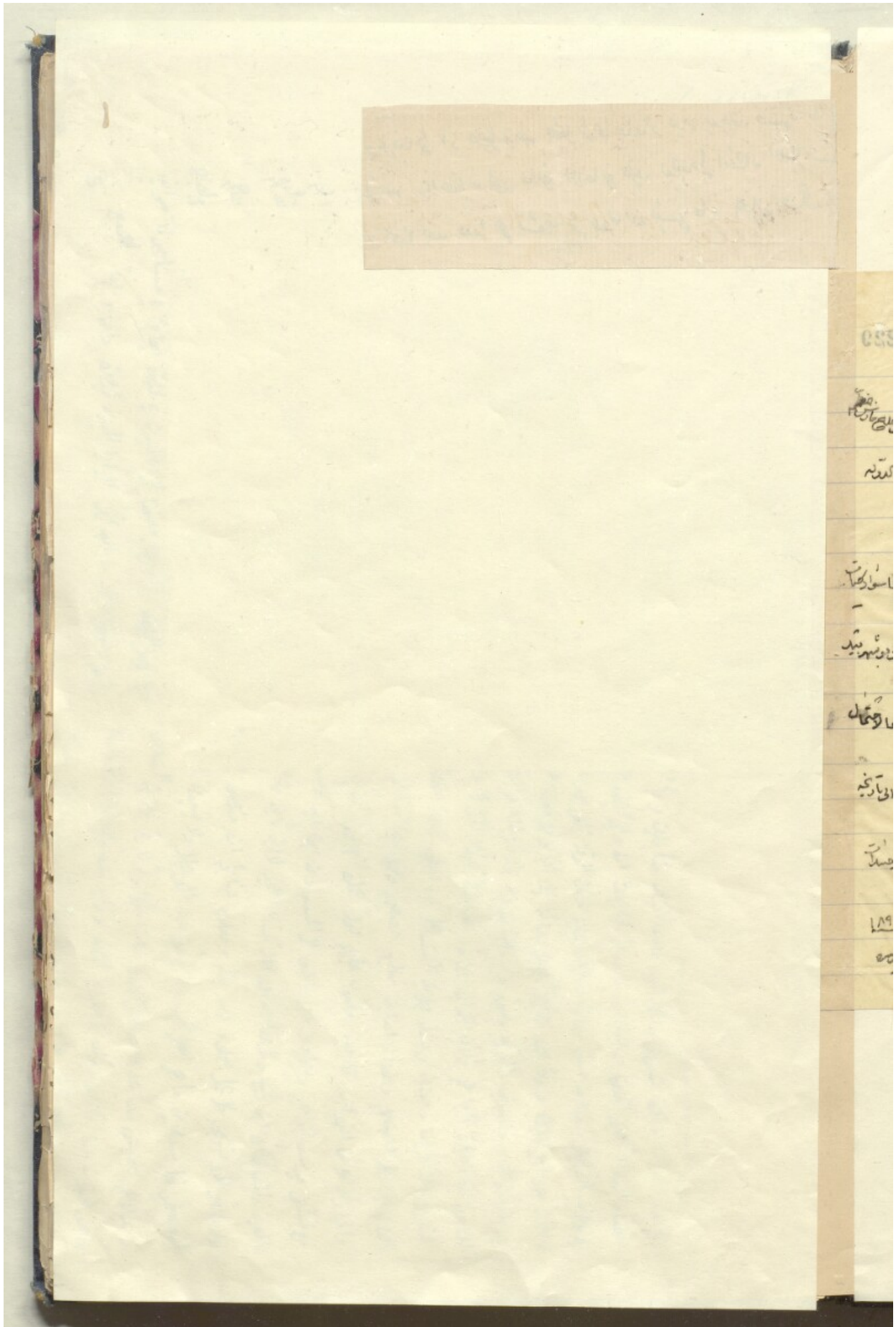
المشترين ابا الطرنا وفتني وسلم بطريق السرا ان نفعي الوراق صدار الملة
الذي يبقا بل صدمهم و اخنا و ساقه صدمهم و لهم لينة ساقا الملة
والمباراه لارنا انهم ليس قايدين ملصق عليهم اول كملهم الالهيم الذي يلصق
مع كسبي بفسد الالهيم والارادو وني راهه الا المسك دن ابي تاي وسمهم
همهم وشتاق مع ابن شيد وكرهنا ساقه عالم عننا اهي لارنا تاي ولا ابن شيد
ولا صدار لهم شيد كرا كل عدله اس يعلم و صدمهم بها لم انه مضمون
المصلي فاسله بن ما هم اهل كبر ولا تحسن ونه الملال ولا تبعه احمق
من عطاهم اخير ساعدو و اكل كمد ي ساقا دونا في ولايتهم
ماهم حمفنه صا ولا نه لول و صدمه ليهن و دايه عنه وله و حلاله و صدمه
الملا طول و صا و ضاينا و صدمه الم و رين سمي

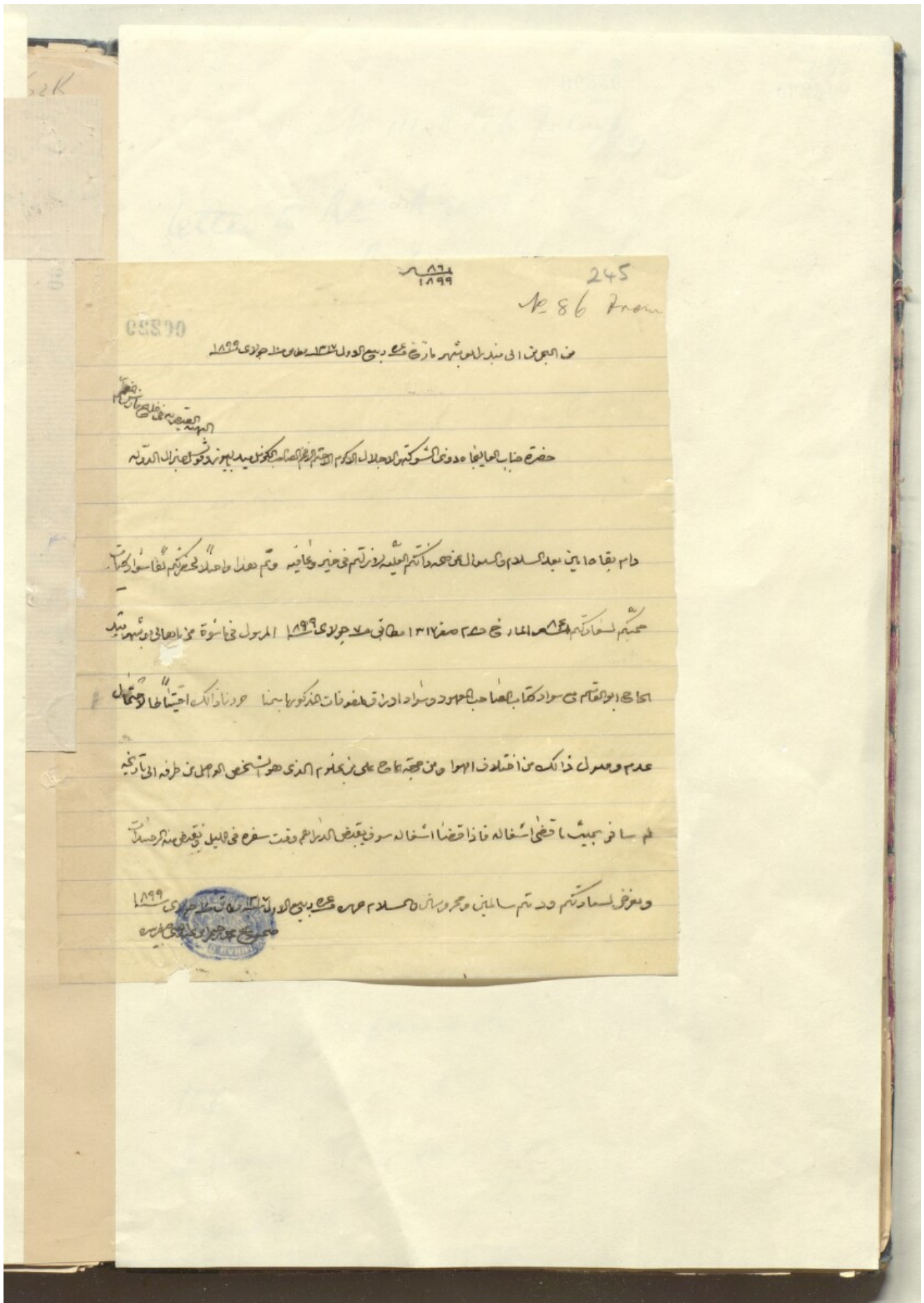
243

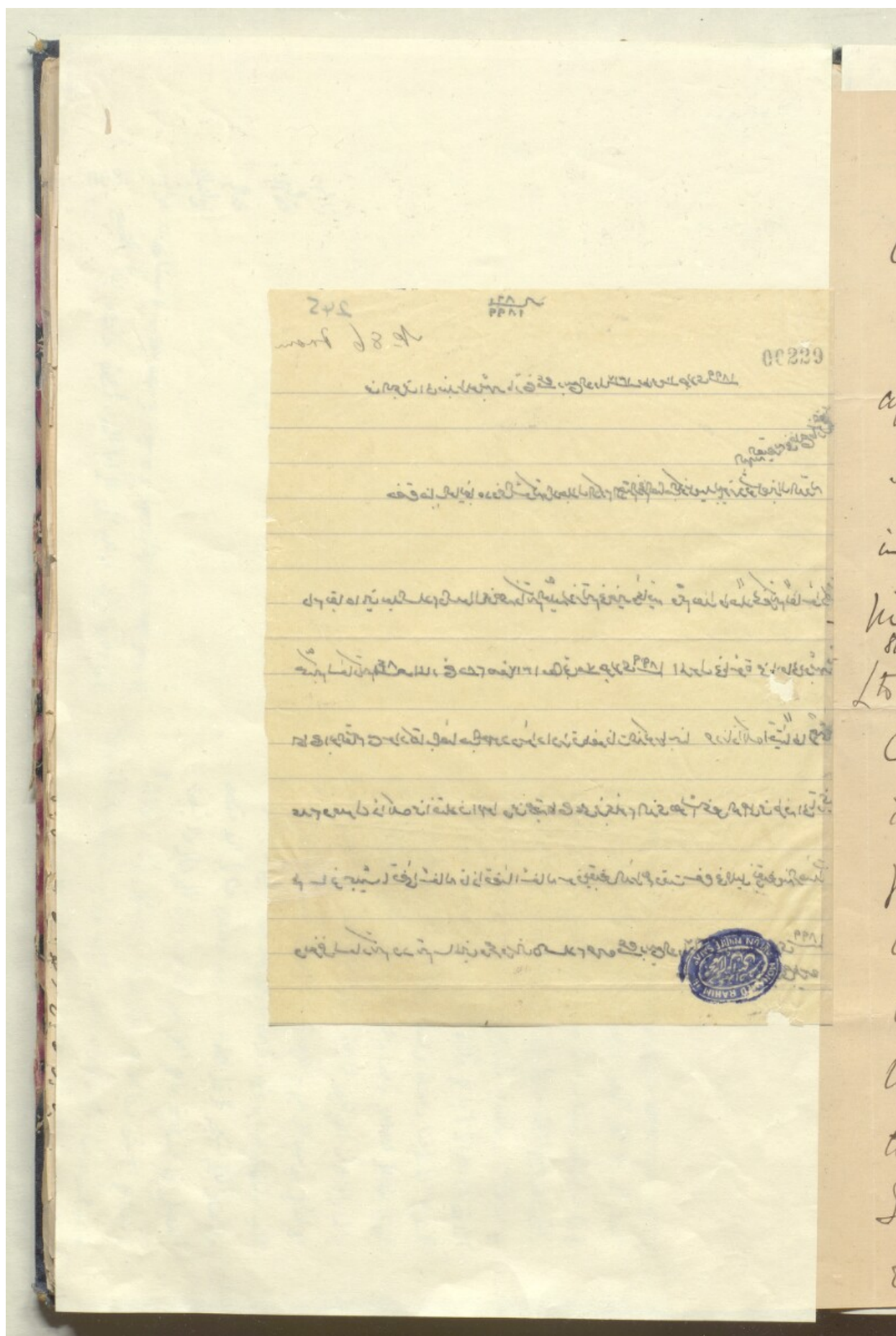
View on the Qatar Digital Library: http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100023520804.0x000054

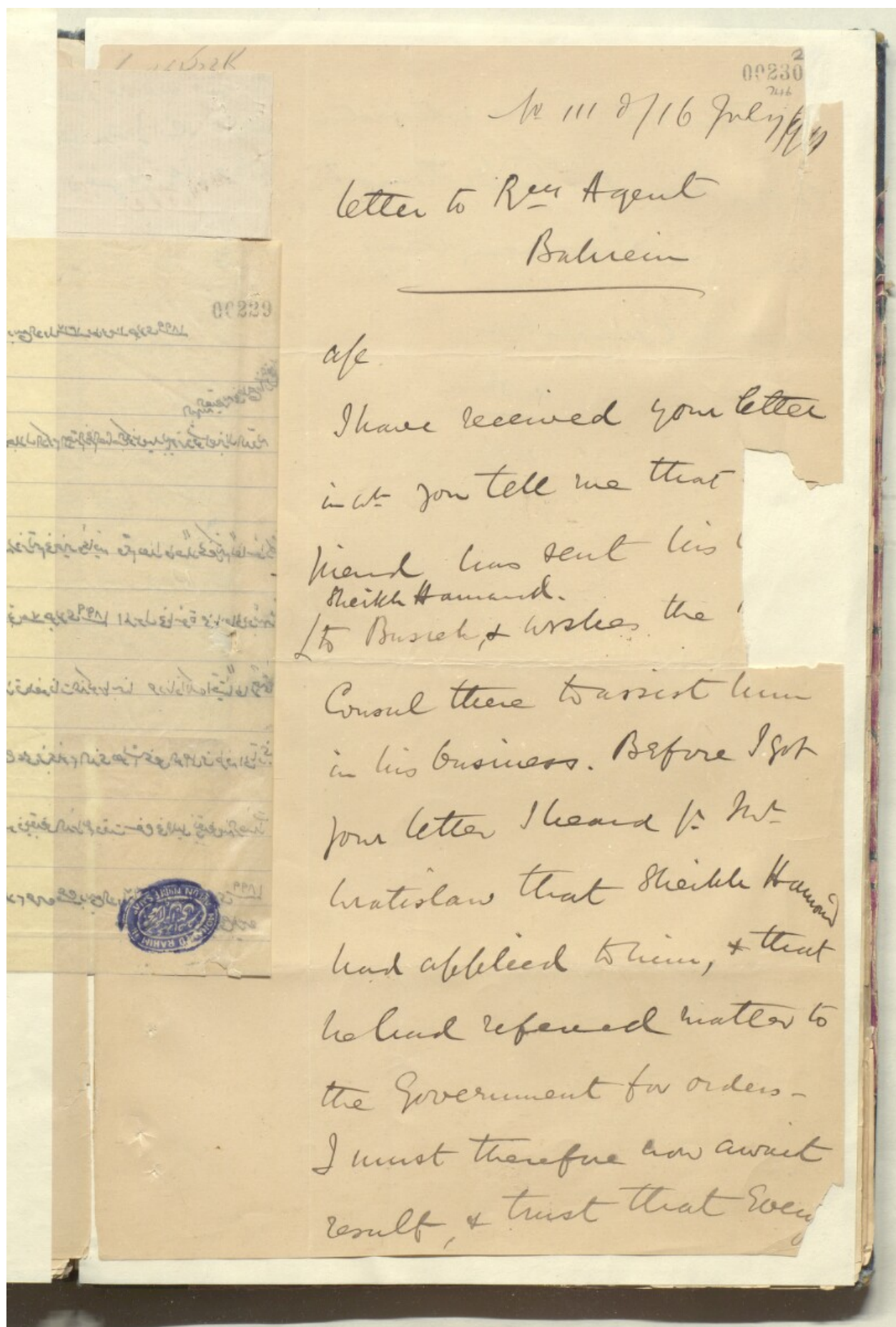










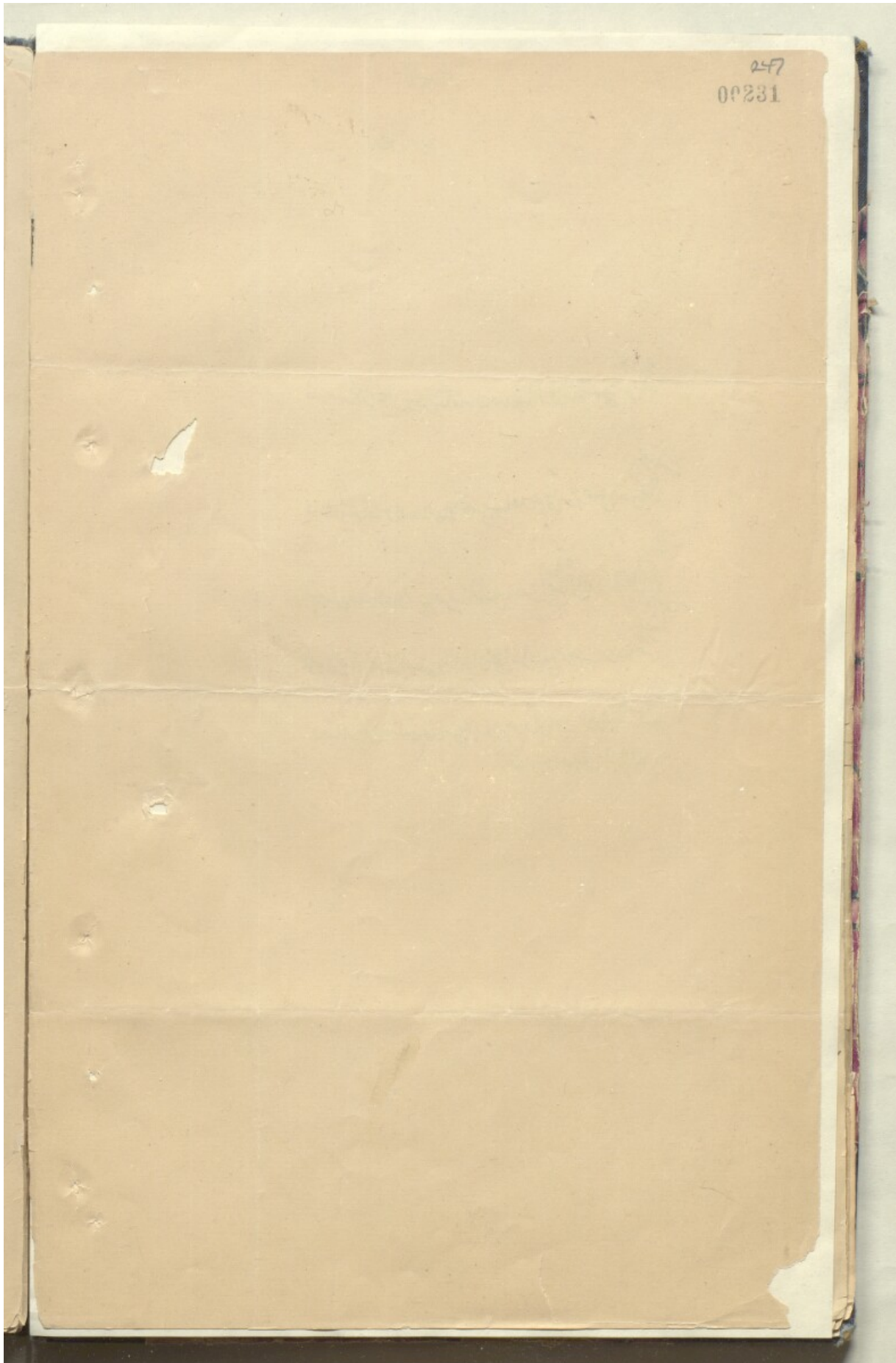


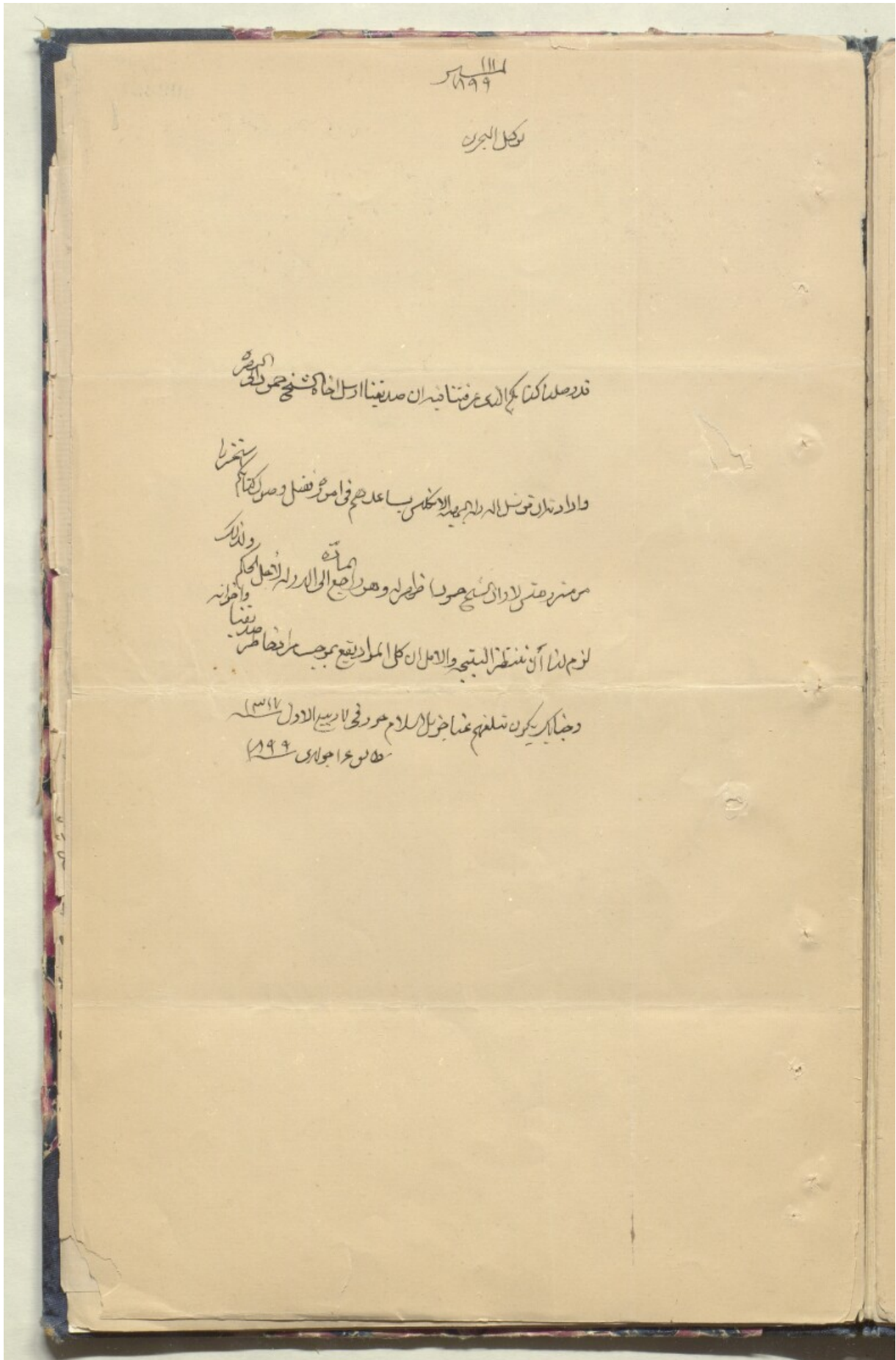


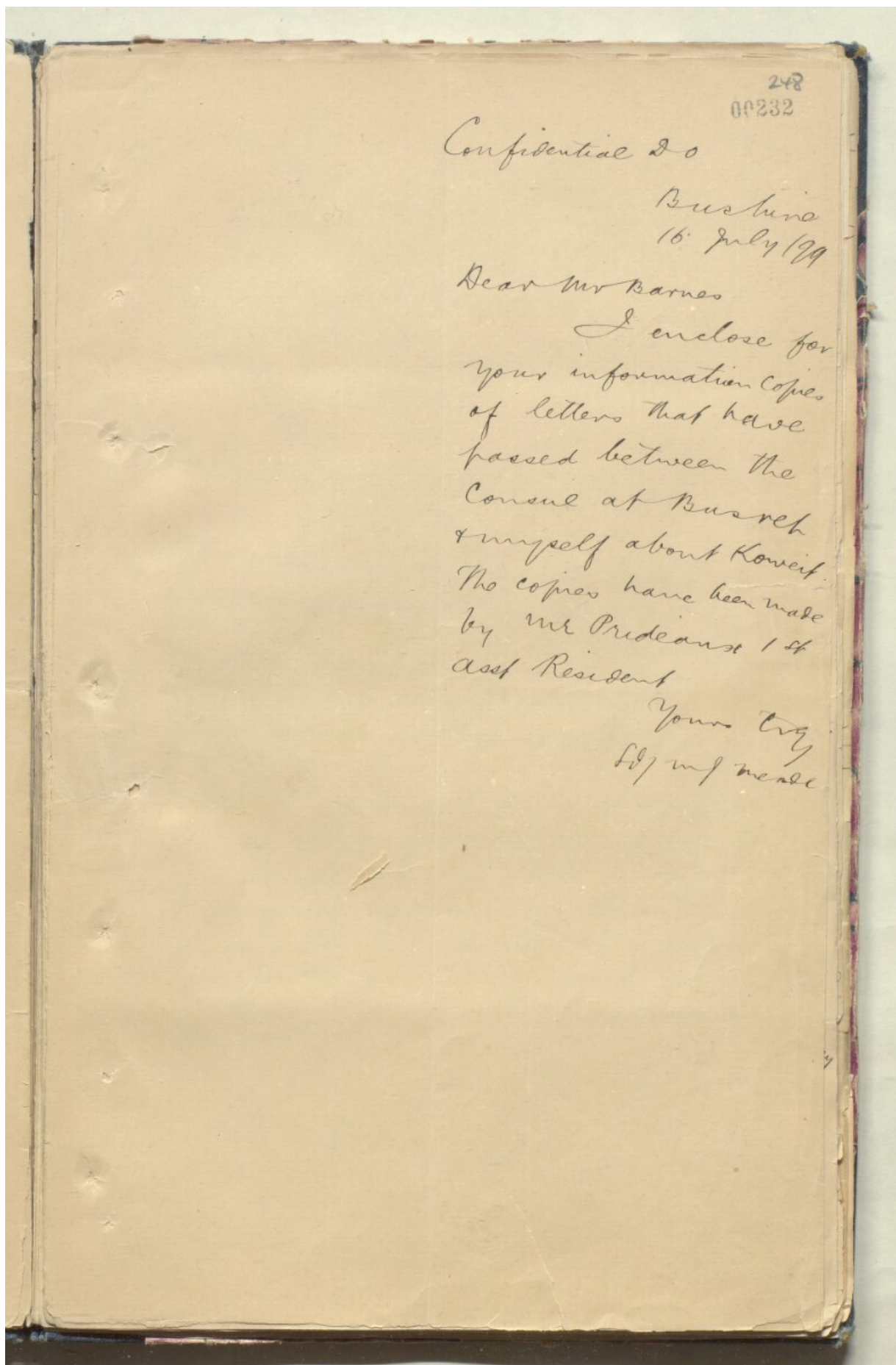
will turn out to the satisfaction
of our friend & his brothers to
whom you sh^d convey my
best Salams -

Wsh

16/2-







248
00232

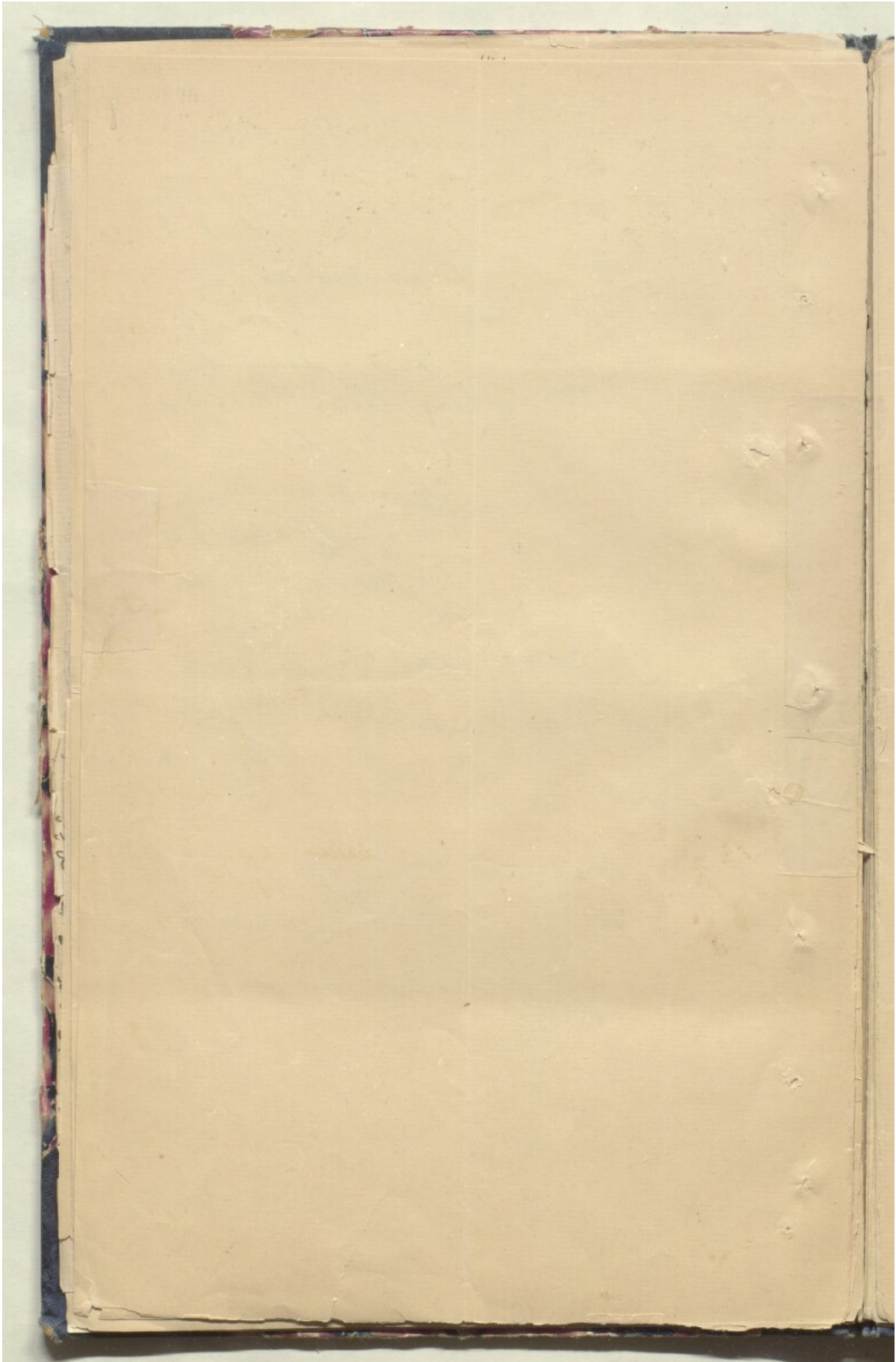
Confidential &c

Basrah
16 July 1899

Dear Mr Barnes

I enclose for
your information copies
of letters that have
passed between the
Consul at Basrah
& myself about Kuwait.
The copies have been made
by Mr Prideaux 1st
Asst Resident

Yours truly
[illegible]
By my order



00233

$$\begin{array}{r} 121 \\ 1199 \end{array}$$

20
تفصیل فی جہان

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي شوكة والجلال الاكرم الاحم الاشيم ايضا الكو لميد اليوز ورفوض

دم بحاء آمين بعد السلام وسئول عن صحة ذاتكم العلية لانتم في خبر وعافيه ولا يخفى
سعادتكم من جهة الحاج علي بن علوم الذي هو رسول خانبه نعم شيخ مبارك لصباح اهل قم
نعمه عثر الفرويه العروض لسعادتكم عن وصوله سابقاً في ربيع الاول ١٢١٧هـ مطابق ١٢
جولاي ١٩٠١هـ فداستجابكم البليغ الزبور وسأفلك الكوبت والصيدين الذين استلناهم منه
واصلين لخطرتكم لعلنا تلاحظون الجميع بالصحة والعافية هذا ما لزم عرض ودمه سالمين
ومحروسين والسلام حرره في ربيع الاول ١٢١٧هـ مطابق ١٢ جولاي ١٨٩٦هـ
محمد محمد زكريا

With reference to Maj. A. L. G. sent by Shadrach Moberly, at Seabach to receive the \$15,000 ~~when~~ about whom I previously reported, I on the 13th July delivered over to him the said sum to be left for Stewart. The receipt (in duplicate) I took from him are transmitted herewith.

(ygd) Mok. Kabin

Resident

Submitted.. File is with

you. ~~for~~ $\frac{22}{7}$ 99



00234

للمائة
١٥٠٠٠

قد وصلنا من جناب الراجا محمد رشيد ابن عبد النبي صفه مبلغ خمسة
عشر الف روبية سلم وذاتنا عما امر به فضة المخرج كبريل ميد
فضل وجندال الدولة اليه المقصد به الانكليزي في خليج فارس
واعطينا هذا لقبض اصل ونقل والاثر لبيان الحق

مبارك
اصباح



In the Name of Almighty
God.

Rs. 15000

I have received from Ayhan
Mohamed Rahim bin Abdulnaby
Saffer the sum of Rupees 15,000
which were ordered (to be given) by
Colonel Meade & B. M. Consul
General in the Persian Gulf

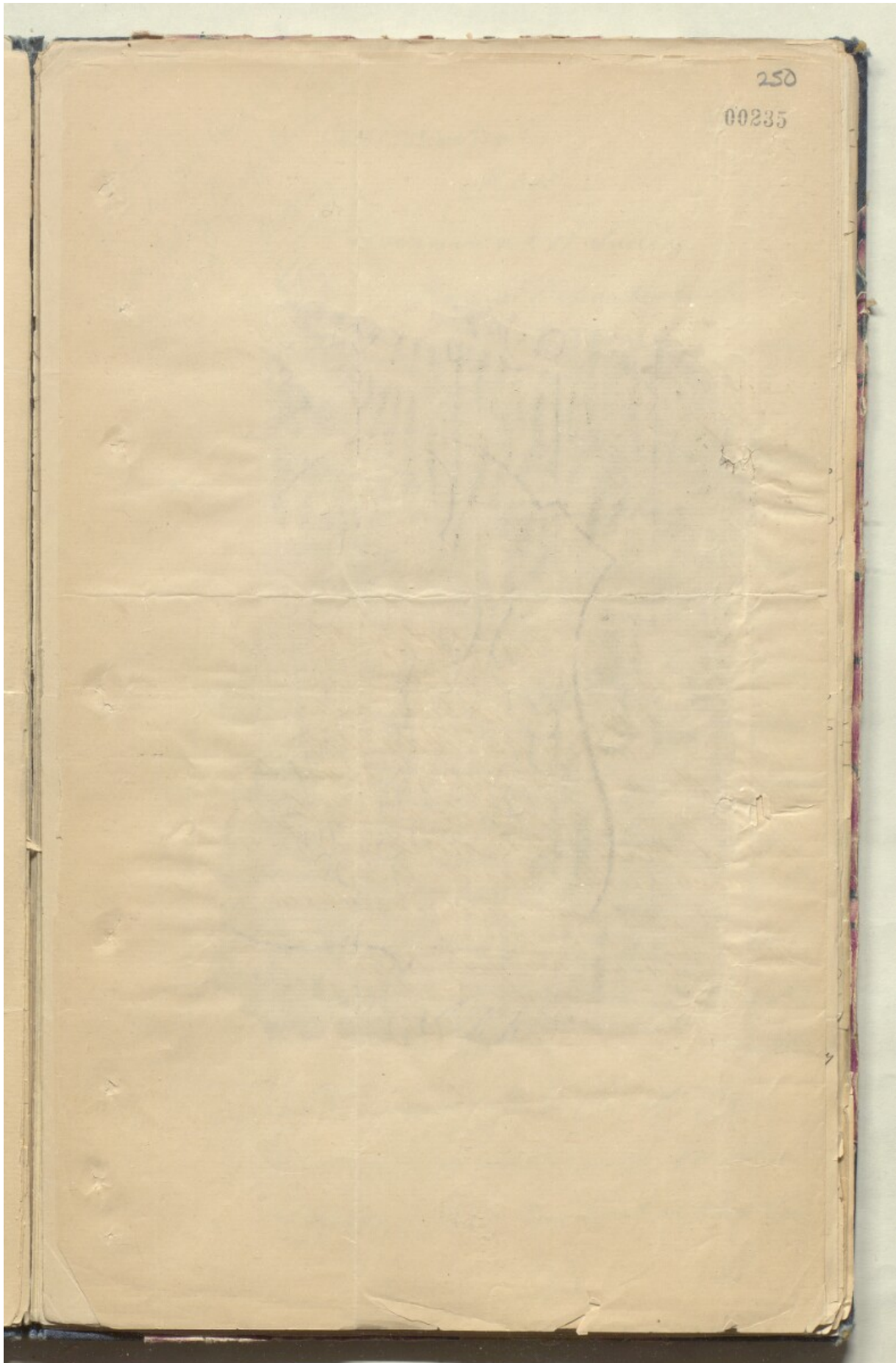
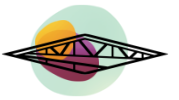
I have given this (receipt) in
duplicate for evidence.

Dated the 2nd July 1899

(sgd) Mohamud-al-Sabah

١٥٠٠٠

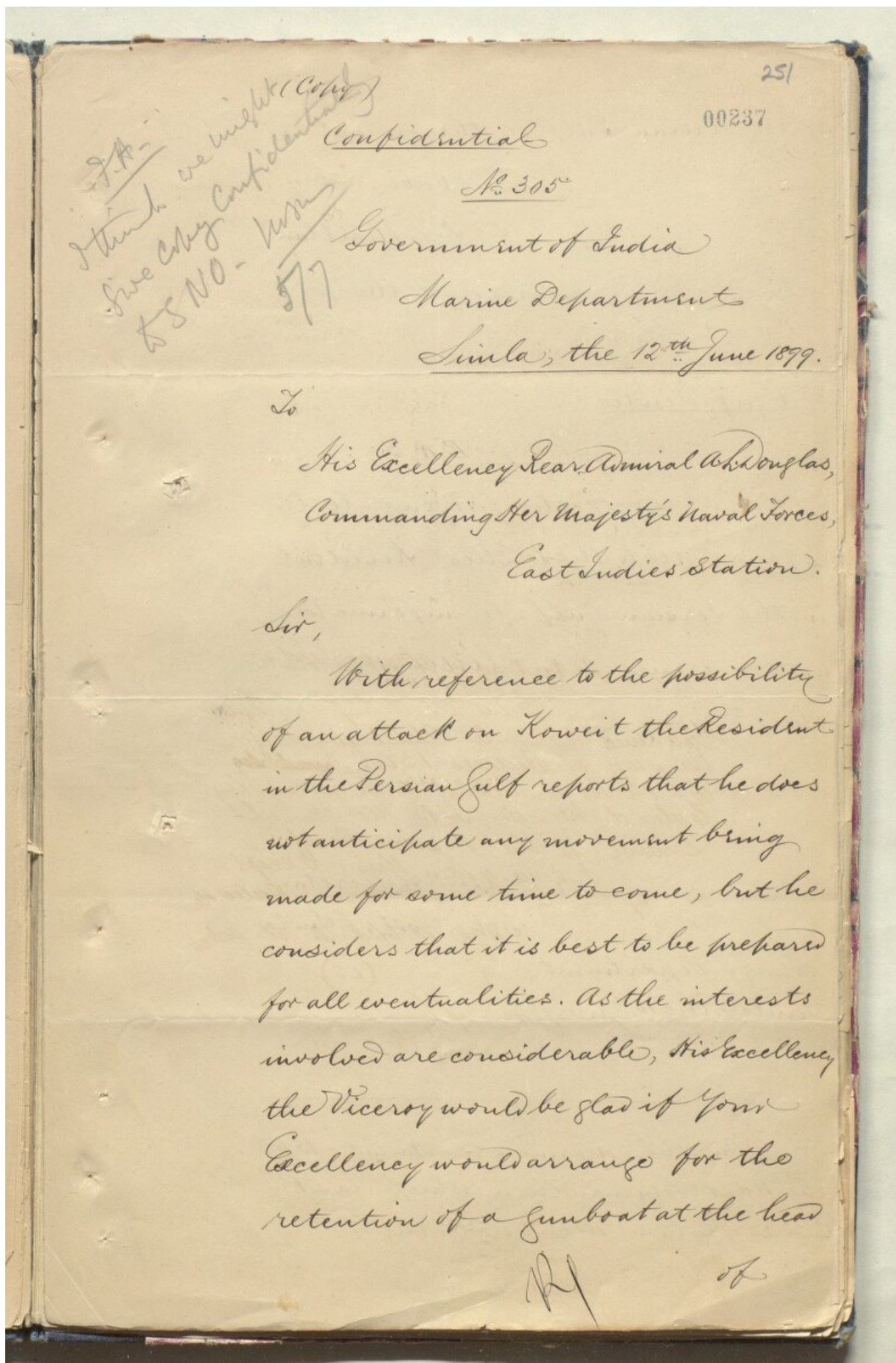
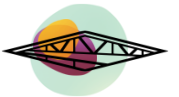
(L.S.)



In the Name of Almighty God.

(L.S.)

24
27 94





00234
of the Persian Gulf for the present.

I have, &c.,
(to) P. J. Maitland
Secretary to the Govt.
of India.

Confidential

No 859- E.A.

A copy of the foregoing letter
is forwarded to the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf for information,
with reference to his letter No 58, dated
the 7th May 1899.

By order, &c.,
W. Wood
Offg. Under Secretary
to the Govt of India.

Foreign Department
Simla, the 16th June/99. }

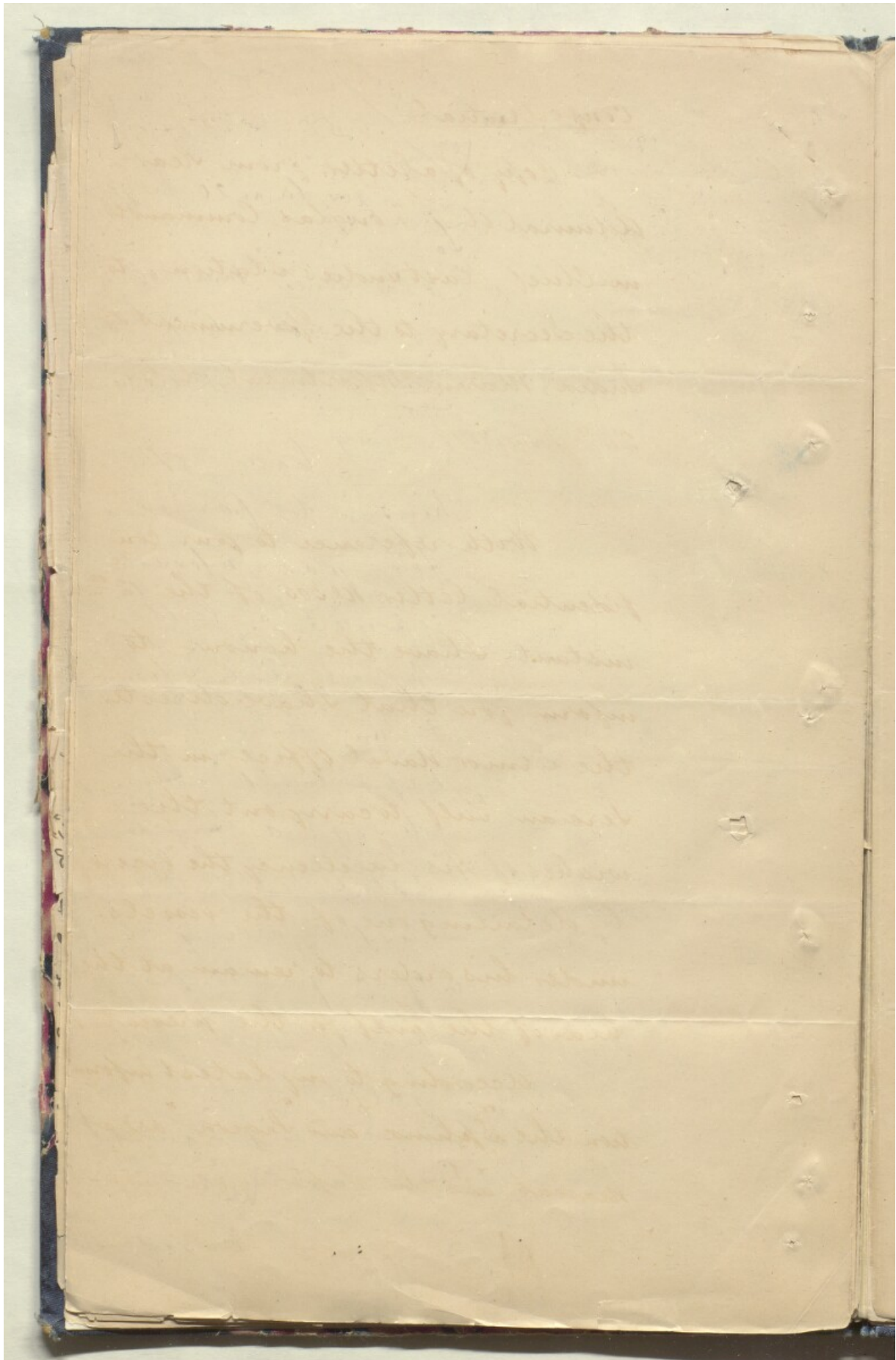
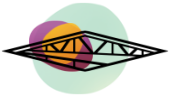
From the Marine Department, to H.E.
the Naval Commander in Chief, East
Indies Station, No 305, dated the 12th
June/99.

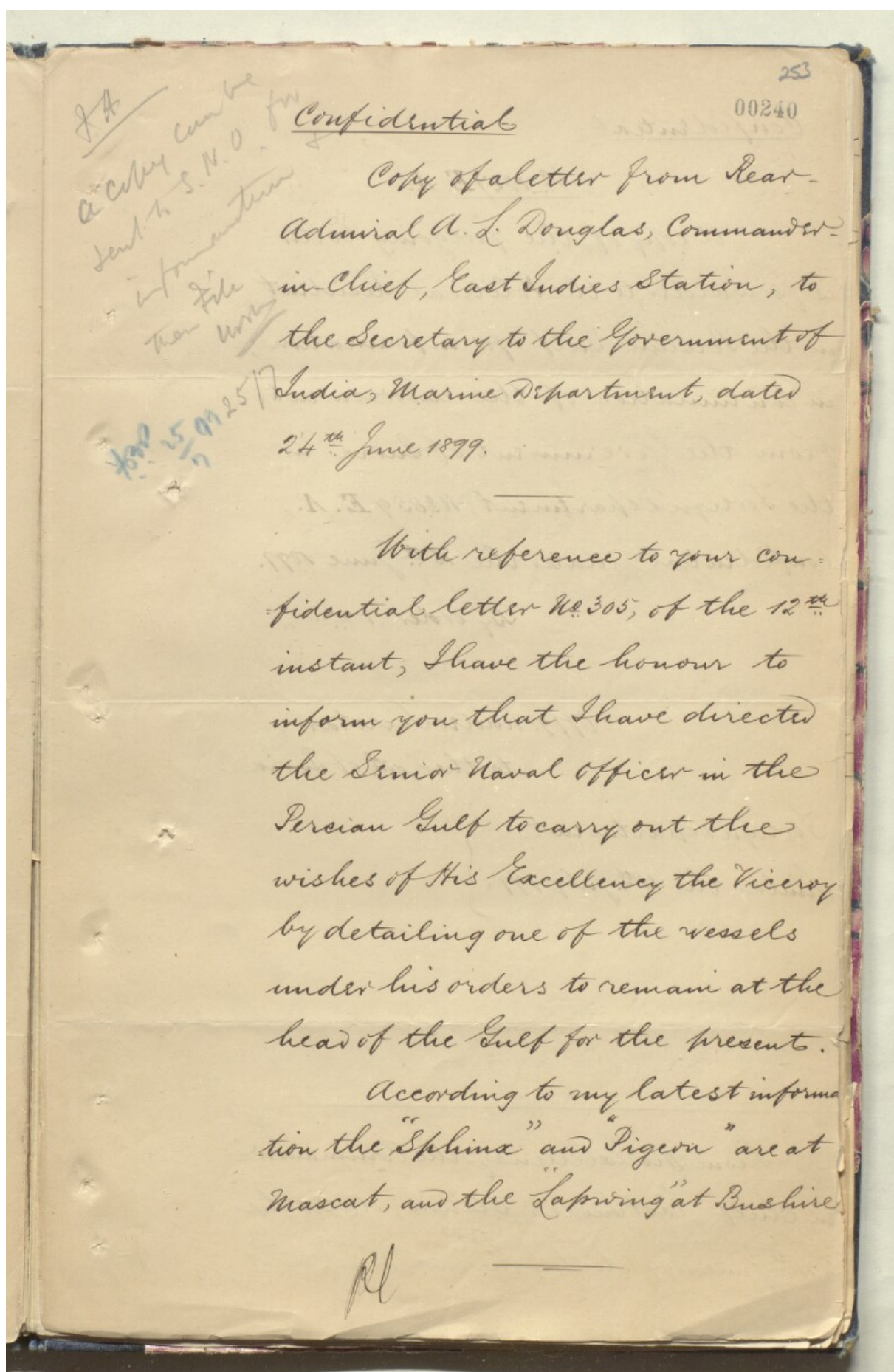


Draft for approval
Confidential 50289 252
 No. 333 Of 1899
 Busline 20 July/99
 To
 The Senior Naval Officer,
 Persian Gulf Division.
 Busline
 Sir
 I have the honour to forward for your ^{Conf} information copy of a letter No 305 dated forwarded to me under ^{Conf} Force Department Endorsement No 859 Ed ^{Conf} dated the 16th June last regarding retention of a gun boat at the head of the Persian Gulf.
 I have &c
 W.H.
 Resident

J.A.
~~4/11~~
 Please report why this letter was not disposed of sooner.
 I initiated it a week ago -
 W.H.
 20/7

W.H.
 13/7/99





84
a copy can be
sent to S.N.O. for
information
file
then
25/7

Confidential

253
00240

Copy of a letter from Rear-
Admiral A. L. Douglas, Commander-
in-Chief, East Indies Station, to
the Secretary to the Government of
India, Marine Department, dated
24th June 1899.

With reference to your con-
fidential letter No 305, of the 12th
instant, I have the honour to
inform you that I have directed
the Senior Naval Officer in the
Persian Gulf to carry out the
wishes of His Excellency the Viceroy
by detailing one of the vessels
under his orders to remain at the
head of the Gulf for the present.

According to my latest informa-
tion the "Sphinx" and "Pigeon" are at
Mascat, and the "Lapwing" at Bushire.

PL



Confidential

N^o 1027 E. A.

A copy of the foregoing letter
is forwarded to the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf, for information,
in continuation of the endorsement
from the Government of India in
the Foreign Department, N^o 859 E. A.,
(Confidential), dated the 16th June 1899.

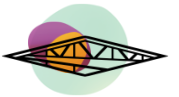
By order, &c.,

W Wood

Offg. Under Secretary
to the Govt of India.

Foreign Department
Simla, the 11th July 1899. }

From His Excellency the Commander
in Chief, East Indies Station, dated the
24th June 1899 (to the Marine Department).



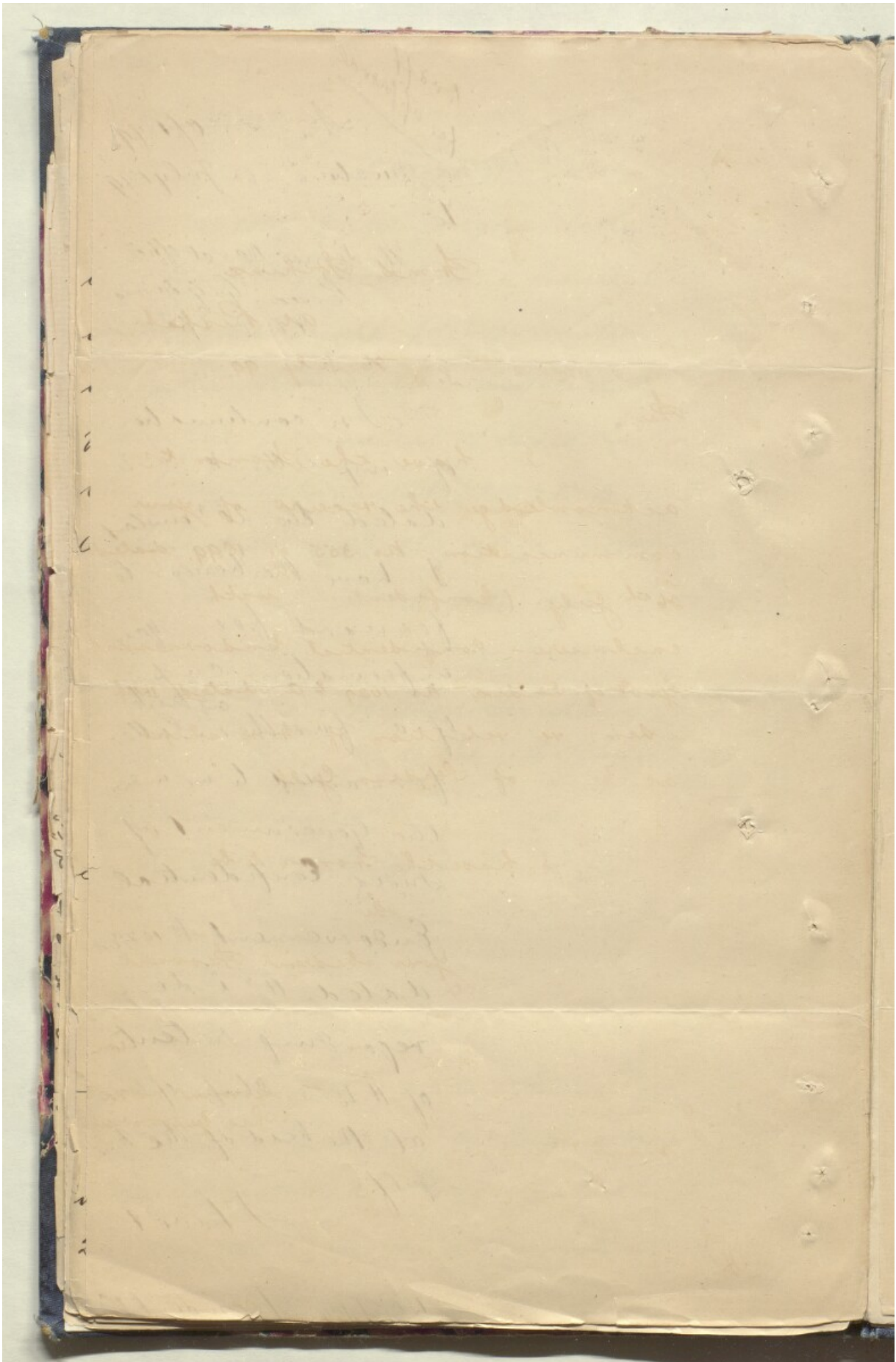
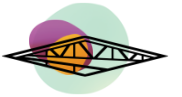
*Draft
for approval*
No. 355 of 1899
Confidential Busline, 26 July 1899
To
The Senior Naval Office,
Persian Gulf Division
H.M.S. Ophion

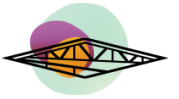
Sir

In continuation
of my letter No. 333
dated the 20th instant
I have the honour to
forward for your
information, copy
of a further ^{Confidential} letter
forwarded to me under
the Government of
India Confidential
Endorsement No. 10278a
dated. 11th idem
regarding retention
of H.M.'s ships of war
at the head of the Persian
Gulf.

I have &c

W.R. 25/7/99 Resident





255

00242

St. M. S. Spinks
at Rishahr.
26 July. 99.

Sir,

I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of your
communication No. 355 of 1899, dated
26th July. (Confidential) with
enclosure - Confidential endorsement
Govt of India No. 1029 E.A. dated 11th
idem., re retention of St. M. ships
at Head of Persian Gulf.

I have the honor to be.

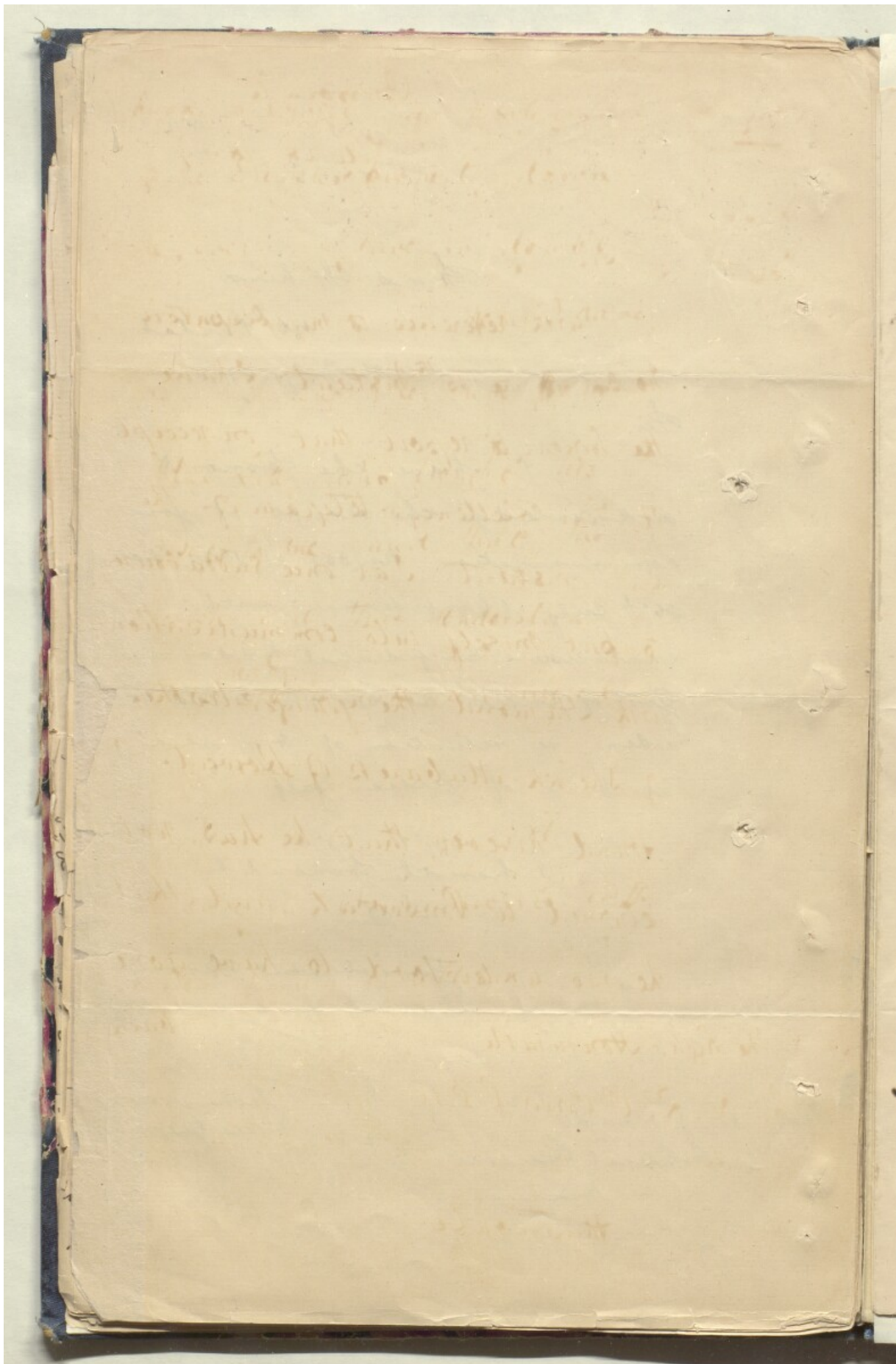
Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

W. H. Phillips
Commr. & Co.
Pers. Gulf Division

Col. M. J. Meade
Political Resident
Bashire.

R





256

Copy. Binnorah
 ho: 26 July 28. 1899
 Secret No: 34

reference to my telegrams
 ho: 34 of the 15th instant. I have
 the honour to report that, on receipt
 of Your Excellency's telegram of the
 22nd instant, I at once endeavoured
 to put myself into communication
 with Hamoud, the younger brother
 of Sheikh Mubarak of Kuwait. I
 found, however, that he had not
 returned to Binnorah and that
 he was understood to have gone
 back
 H. S. The Right Honourable
 Sir N. R. O'Connor F. C. B.
 Constantinople.



back to Koweit after visiting some
of the Sheikh's property down
the river. I have no doubt
however that he will have
been inquiring after him from
Abdul Latif, who brought his
message to me and that the
Sheikh will thus understand
^{ready} to take an interest
in his case. I should also
have thought it
advisable to communicate with
either of them by letter.
I called on the Vali on the 11th inst.
and introducing
the



257
00244

the subject of the decision of the
Koweit inheritance, & expressed that
H. S. a hope that he would be able
to arrive at an equitable
settlement, as this was a question
to which H. M.'s Government were
not indifferent. Hamdi Pasha
replied that he should like nothing
better than to wind up the affair,
as the continual telegrams he
received from Constantinople in
consequence of the nephew's appeals
gave him constant headaches.
But he found it quite impossible
to come to any firm arrangement
with Mubarak, who wanted to
keep



keep practically all for himself
and give his nephew a more
pittance. In his latest proposals
even to give the latter £1000 a
year out of the Fao properties,
which produce £15,000 a year,
and also let them have the small
property at Kout el Zew, near
Bussorah. The latter is registered
in the name of the late Sheikh,
Mohammed Pasha, while the
Fao property is still in the
name of Sheikh Sabah, father
and predecessor of
Mohammed and Mubarek.



258
00245
I asked H. N. if it was not a fact that the nephews had entered a suit in the Sheri Courts against ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Shah~~ ^{the} ~~for the recovery of their~~ ^{Shah}, and he replied that there was, but the Sheikh had declined to file an answer to it.

The Vali did not tell me, but I hear from elsewhere that he has sent me Abdullah, ^{at Meccah} to Koweit to negotiate a fresh treaty with Mubarak on this question.

It is very difficult to make any suggestion as to what would be an equitable division of the property. As Your Excellency

15



is aware of the law governing Real
 Property in Turkey is far from
 simple, and even had I a complete
 knowledge of it it is doubtful whether
 I am in full possession of the
 facts of the case. Even the
 existence of a diamond was
 unknown to me till he appeared
 at Basrah, and in view of
 the enormous claims kept up by
 the Arab Aristocracy of this
 district it is quite possible that
 there may be other claimants yet
 for shares in the succession.
 The Fao property was originally
 Stolen



251
00246

stolen by Sheikh Sabah bin
 and his family and is still registered
 in his name. He was succeeded by
 his son Abdullah, who died a
 natural death (apparently leaving
 no heirs.) Abdullah was succeeded
 by his brother Mohammed, who
 was created Kaimakam and
 Pasha by the Governor. Mohammed
 was murdered by Araba along
 with another brother, Jerrah,
 and there are still two other
 brothers, Jabir and Hamud,
 who adhere to Al-Bukhar.
 The claimants at Bussorah
 are three sons of Mohammed and
 one son of Jerrah.

26



If Abdulla left no heirs, it
 would seem that the Fao property
 should be divided into five parts,
 one for each brother or his heirs,
 which would give the nephew
 here $\frac{2}{5}$ or £T. 6,000 instead
 of £T. 600 as offered by Mubarak.
 The property at Kout el Zein
 and also, I believe, another small
 place at Gerdah, being in
 Mohamed's name should descend
 to his sons. But these are,
 I understand, of quite secondary
 importance to those at Fao.
 All the states being in undoubted
 Turkish



260

Turkish territory, are obviously
under the jurisdiction of the Turkish
Courts and the Porte have treated
Mubarak with surprising tenderness
in allowing him to laugh at the
tribunals and appropriate all the
revenues of all the properties for
himself during three years. It is
doubtful, however, whether such
indulgence will be continued in
future, and it would indeed be
most unjust towards the nephews.
I should add that Hamid
Pasha expressed some surprise
when I mentioned the interest
when



which H. M's Government, take in
 the question, and explained to
 him that Great Britain could be
 indifferent to nothing which went
 on in the Persian Gulf where our
 interests are considerable. H. E.
 replied that he was aware of this
 and went on to enlarge on the
 importance of Koweit and the
 comparative excellence of its Harbour.
 I have not yet had an
 opening for administering a warning
 to the Vali personally against any
 hostile action against Koweit.
 To the best of my belief, H. E. has
 no such intentions at present.

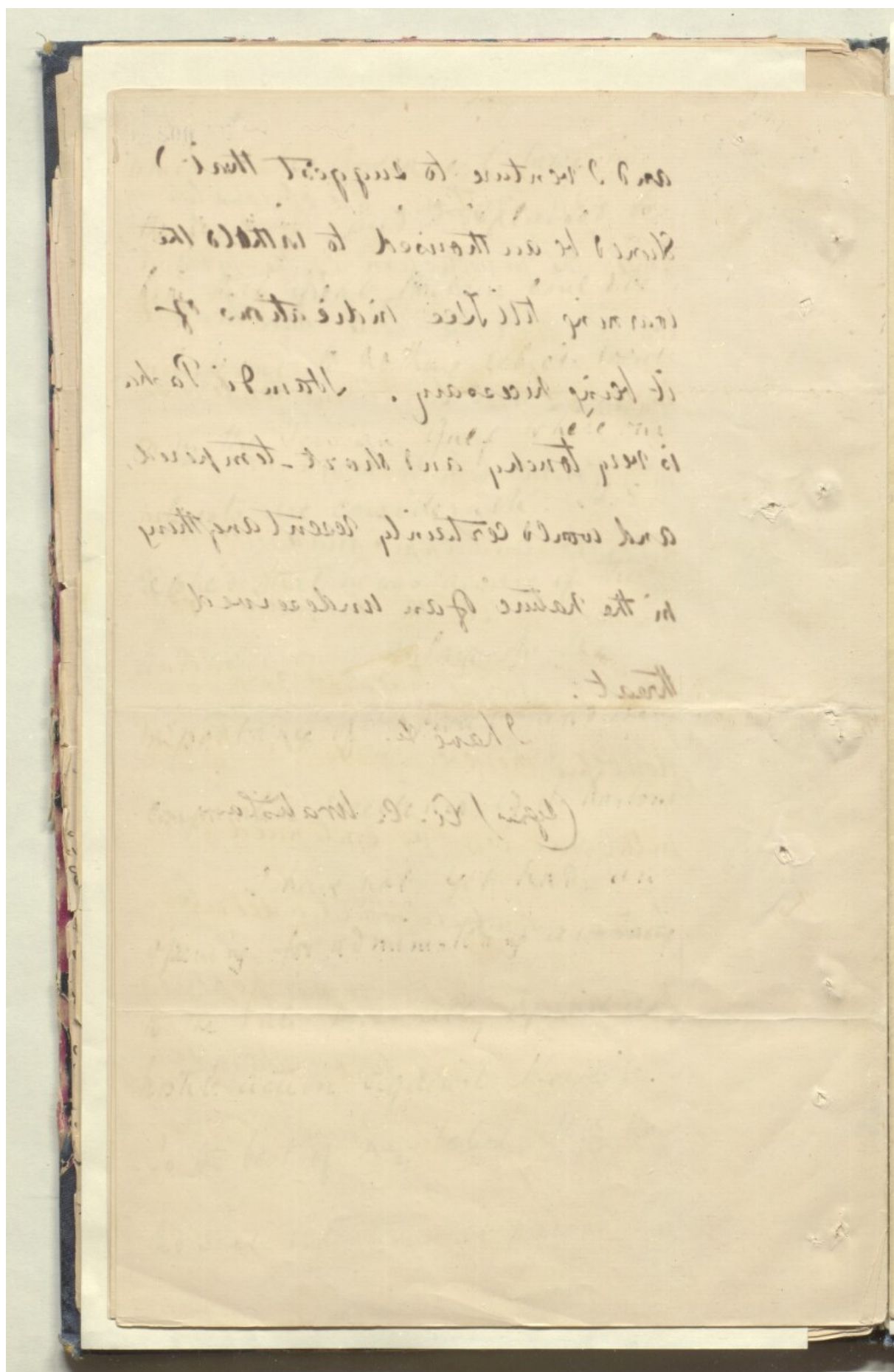
and



26
00248
and I venture to suggest that I
should be authorised to withhold the
warning till I see indications of
it being necessary. Istamdi Pasha
is very touchy and short-tempered,
and would certainly resent anything
in the nature of an undeserved
threat.

I have &c.

(Signed) C. C. Wratislaw





262
60240

Copy
Confidential
No 37

British Consulate
Bussorah 29th June 1899.

Sir,

*7.A.
His Ex. put
in Koweit file
Wons
9/7/99*

I have the honour to report that I have drawn the vali's attention to a telegram from Constantinople published in the "Standard" of the 29th June to the effect that "Kandi Pasha the Governor of Bussorah complains of English intrigues."

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Sir, H. R. O'Connor G.C.B.
+Ca +Ca +Ca
British Embassy
Constantinople

There



There is little doubt that the state of the Province is far from satisfactory. It is filled with internecine strifes, and possibly the vali wishes to cover his own responsibility by throwing the blame on imaginary English intrigues which, however, obtain a certain amount of credence at the Forte, partly owing to the presence of British war-ships in the Persian Gulf.

The



263
00250

The Turks believe that any attempt on the part of Russia at Bender embassy would be the signal for a British "Coup de main".

His Excellency thanked me for giving him the opportunity of denying the truth of this statement.

He had never complained of British intrigues, nor did he know of any, nor was there any foundation for asserting that the state
of



of the Province was far
from satisfactory. He had
no means of ascertaining
the movements of British
ships of war in the Persian
Gulf. as a matter of fact
the Province was, as I was
aware, in a quieter state
than usual, and he left
it to me to contradict the
untrue statement of the
Standard's correspondent.

I am of course unacquainted
with the contents of Hamdi

Pasha's



264
00251

Gasha's confidential reports
to Constantinople, but he
is perfectly correct in
asserting that the Vilayet
is comparatively quiet -
absolute tranquility and
order in a Province like
Russoorah are not to be
hoped for, but under Hamdi's
administration its condition
is perhaps as satisfactory
as can be expected and is
certainly not less satisfactory
than in the time of his
predecessors



predecessors.

His Excellency attributes the false rumours which are apparently in circulation concerning him at Constantinople to the machinations of the Rakib of Bassorah, his old and inveterate enemy, who he believes is endeavouring to intrigue him out of his post for the second time.

His Excellency further stated that he had just said his prayers, and the truth of his



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00252

his statements could be
relied on.

I have etc

sgd ex. C. Wratislaw

H. B. M.'s Consul,

Bussorah.

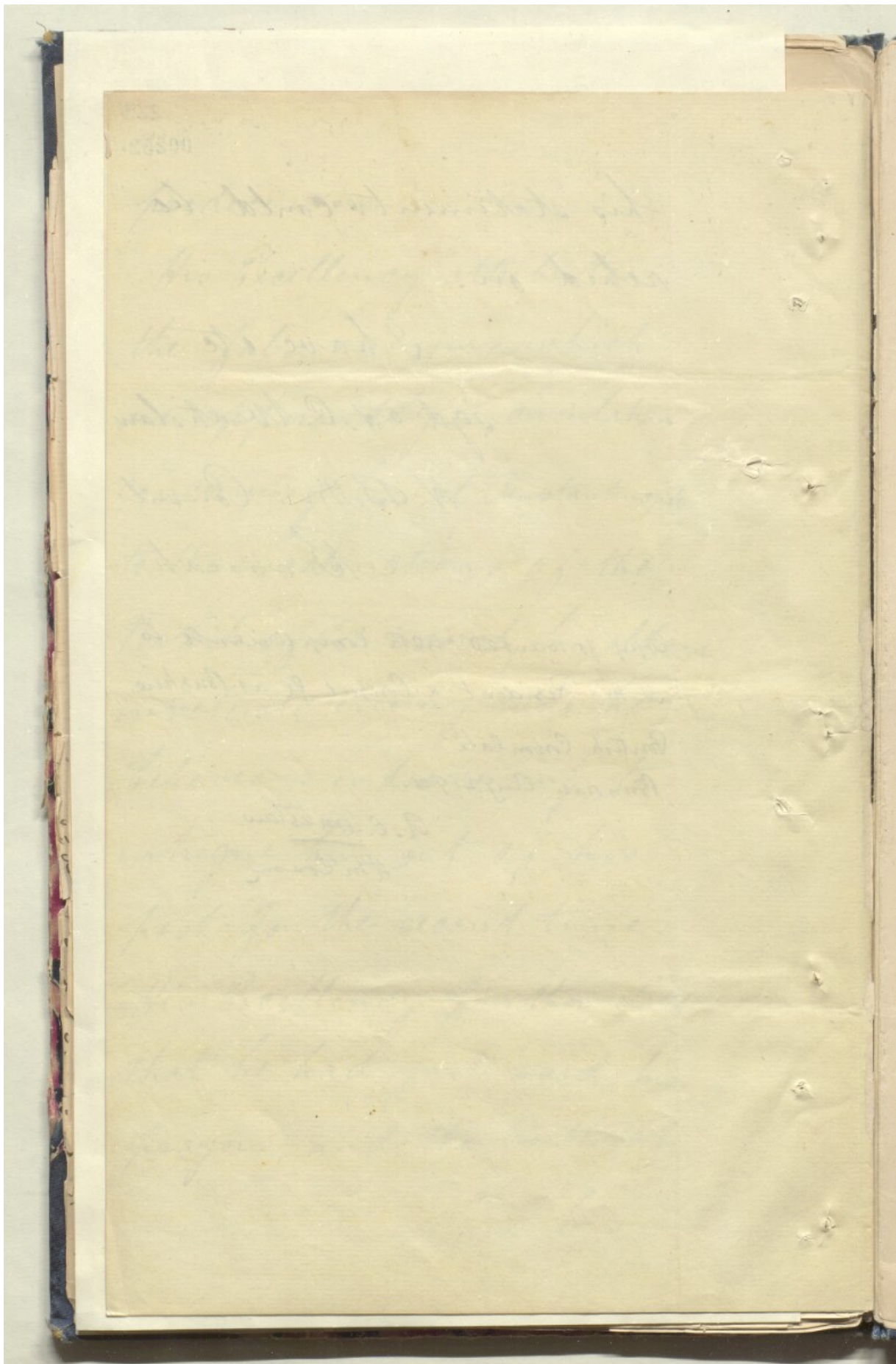
Copy forwarded with compliments to
H. M.'s Resident & Consul Genl at Bushire.

British Consulate

Bussorah. Aug 2. 94.

A. C. Wratislaw

H. M.'s Consul





(Copy)

266
00253

Received with letter from Secretary,
Political and Secret Department No. 29,
dated the 30th June 1899. —

Foreign Office to India Office.

17th June 1899.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of
the 7th instant, I am directed by the
Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to
you a copy of a despatch which His
Lordship has received from Her Majesty's
Ambassador at Constantinople on
the subject of Koweit.

In view of what is stated in Sir
N. O'Connor's despatch Lord Salisbury has
authorized His Excellency in a despatch,
of which a copy is also enclosed, to refrain
for the present from addressing any
warning to the Porte in regard to Koweit,
and to instruct Mr. Bratislaw to make a



communication to the Vali of Busra in
the sense proposed by His Excellency.

I am to suggest for the considera-
tion of Her Majesty's Secretary of State
for India that he should arrange for a
message to be sent to the Sheikh of
Koweit enjoining caution in his actions
and language.

I am, &c,

(Sd) L. H. Sanderson

Sir A. R. O'Connor to the Foreign Office

N^o. 292.

Constantinople

6th June 1899.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit
herewith to Your Lordship two documents
respecting Koweit which I have received
from Mr. Whatislaw Her Majesty's Consul
at Busra. The first is the paraphrase
of a telegram stating that the new



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00254

Vali Hamdi Pasha, spontaneously introduced the subject that the Sultan was much disturbed at reports from various quarters of British designs upon Koweit, and that the Vali is of opinion that H.M. would be willing to discuss the question with a view to a friendly settlement. The second reports that the Sheikh of Koweit has imposed 5% duty on all imports from Turkey, and that upon the Director of the Basra Customs complaining of this proceeding the Governor General Hamdi Pasha begged that the question should not be brought forward at this moment.

I think it may be assumed that it will be obvious to the British Government that the Sheikh of Koweit would not have dared to impose a duty on Turkish products without foreign support



support, and it may be also assumed that the Sheikh has been indiscreet in his language and boastful of British protection, but that it may be doubted whether the Turkish Government will put his words to the test by attempting to furnish him.

Were it possible without the negotiations being divulged, we might approach the Sultan with a proposal that he should engage not to cede to any other Powers any of his rights over the coast of the Persian Gulf. There are, however, two objections to this course. I consider secrecy to be well nigh impossible and that it would be difficult to make the engagement applicable to Koweit without implying an official recognition of Turkish sovereignty.

There remains the course of waiting the further developments, while
at



00255268

at the same time instructing Mr
Wratislaw to hint to the Governor
General, when the occasion offers,
that an attack upon Koweit might
get him into trouble, and enjoining upon
the Sheikh Mubarek, through some
private channel, to be more cautious
in his action and language. Some
warning of this kind seems the more
than? necessary that the protection of
British political interests in the
Persian Gulf may ultimately involve
the protection of the Sheikh of Koweit.

I have, &c,

(S) N. R. O'Connor

Mr Wratislaw to Sir N. R. O'Connor

No. 23.

Rusra
3rd May 1879.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch
No. 21 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour



to report that Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit
has recently imposed an import duty of
15% ad valorem on all goods arriving in
his country. Hitherto merchandise im-
ported into Koweit from Busra or other
Turkish ports was exempted from such
duty on presentation of a certificate
from a Turkish Custom House, but
the Sheikh now declines to recognise
the certificates and claims duty from
all imports whatever be their origin.
I learn that the Mudir of the Busra
Custom House has complained to the
Vali of this proceeding on the part of
the Sheikh. Hamdi Pasha in reply
begged the Mudir to let the question
be for the moment and allow him to
get settled in his new post and make
himself acquainted with all the cir-
cumstances of the case.

I have, &c.,
(s) A. C. Wratishlaw



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00256

Telegram from Mr. Whatislaw.

Dated Busra, June 4th 1899.

The Vali spontaneously introduced the subject of Koweit in the course of a conversation I had with him today. H.E. stated that reports of British designs have much disturbed the Sultan, and that foreign representatives who have views of their own on Koweit are sedulously exciting H. His suspicions. The Vali is confident that if Your Excellency were to approach the Sultan on the subject personally H. M. would welcome such an opportunity of frankly discussing the matter and arriving at a friendly settlement. He himself is advocating such a settlement in a report which he is about to send in.



Foreign Office to Sir A.R. O'Connor.

No. 144.

17th June 1899 -

Sir,

I received and communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India Your Excellency's despatch No. 259, Secret of the 24th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Busra relative to Koweit, and suggesting that the Turkish Government should be warned, in the event of their taking steps to give active support to the claims of Sheikh Mubarek's nephews, that Her Majesty's Government would have strong objections to a Turkish expedition against Koweit.

I transmit to you a copy of a letter which has been received from the India Office on the subject.

In



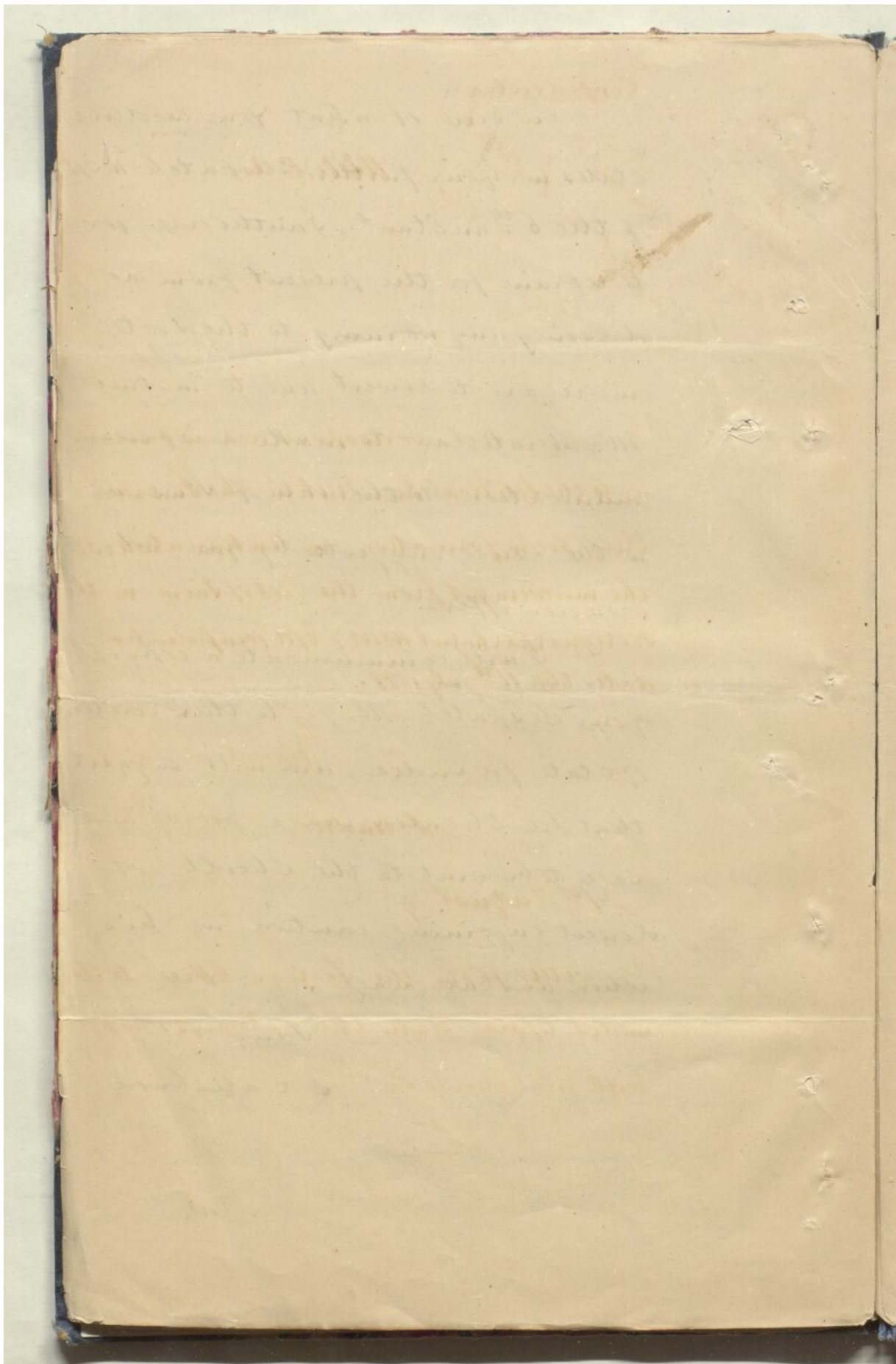
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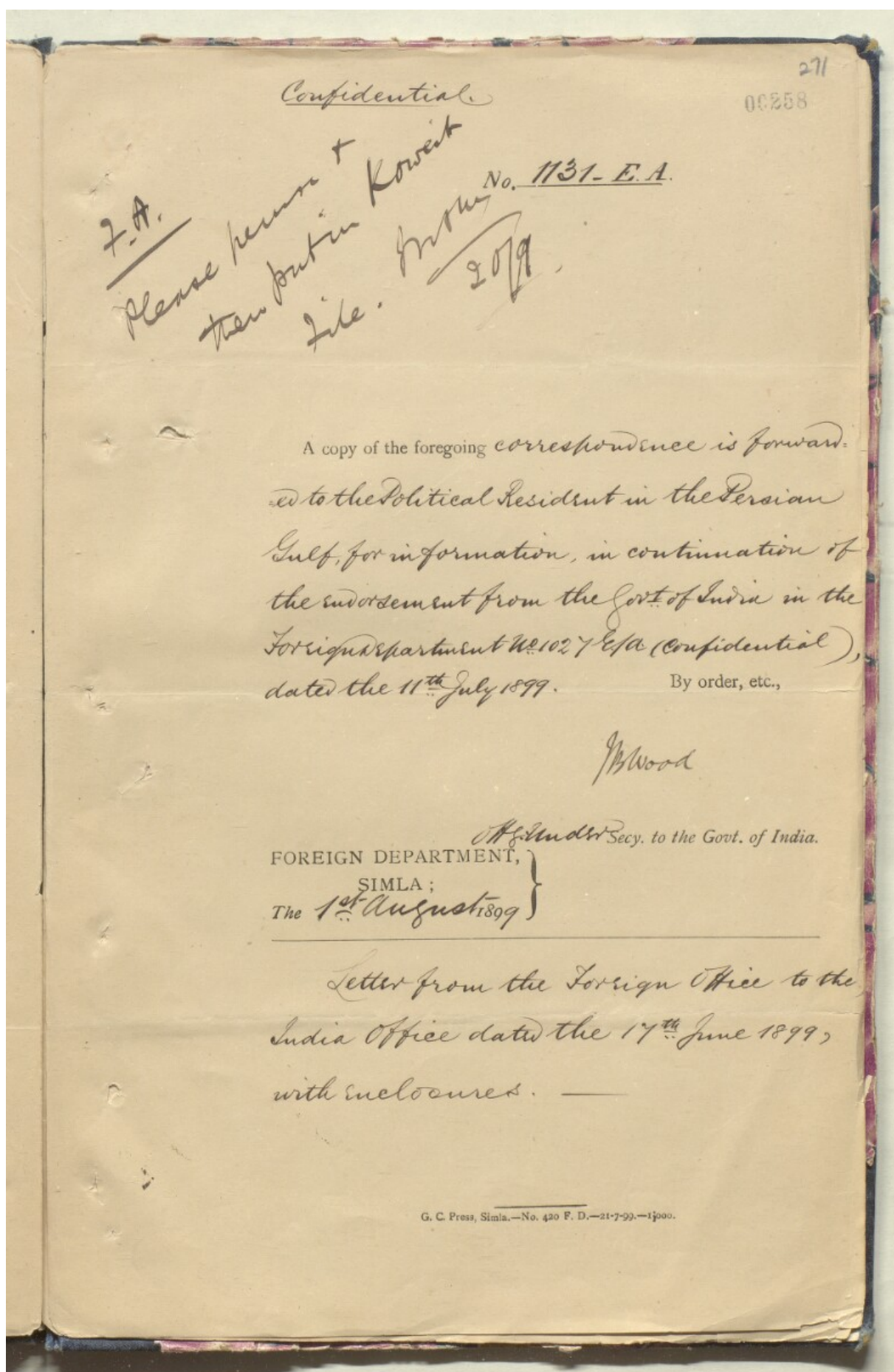
In view of what Your Excellency states in your further despatch No. 292 of the 6th instant, I authorise you to refrain for the present from addressing any warning to the Porte in regard to Koweit, and to instruct Mr. Wratisslaw to make a communication to the Vali of Busra in the sense suggested by you, when occasion offers.

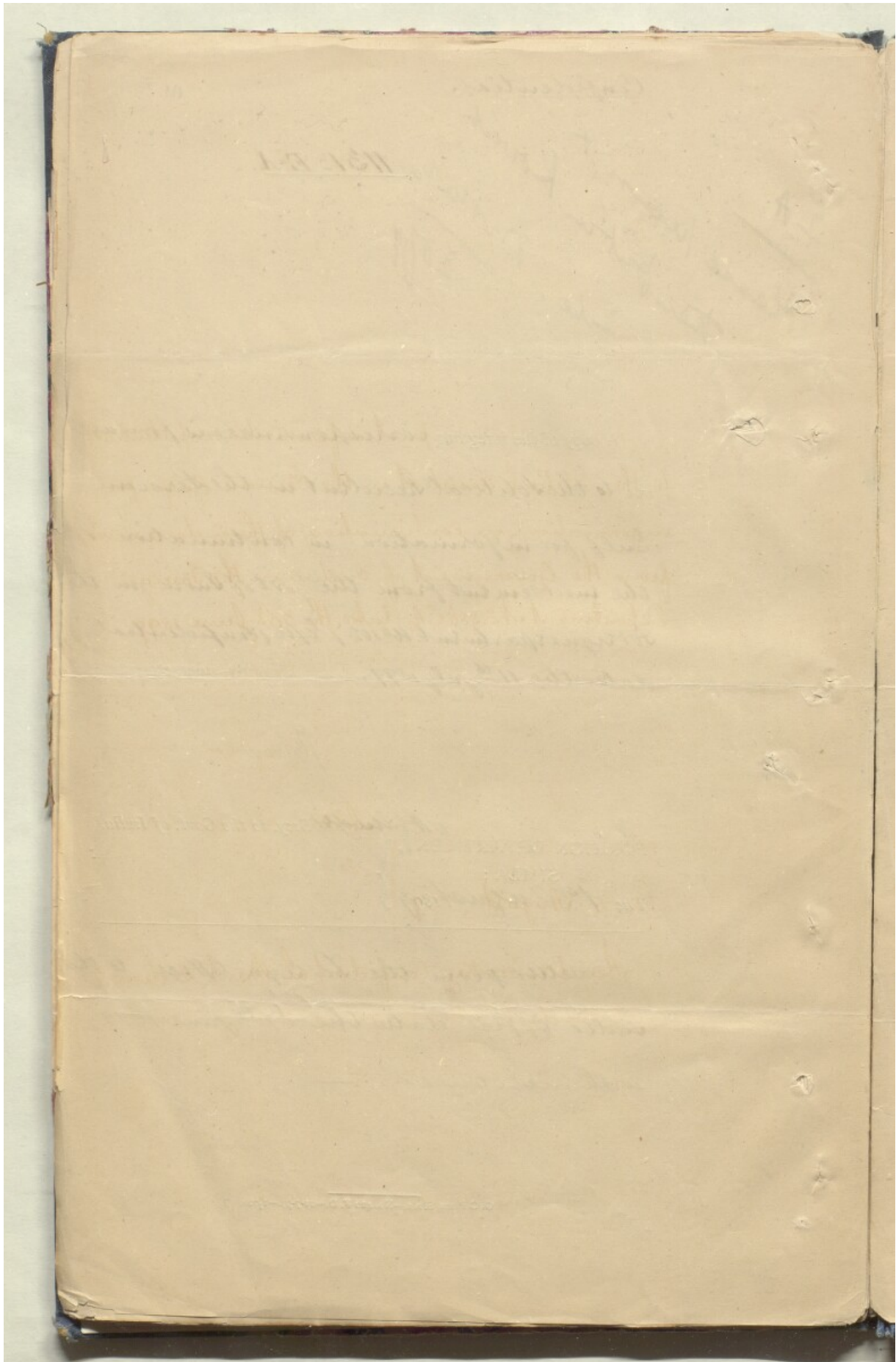
I will communicate a copy of your despatch No. 292 to the Secretary of State for India, and will suggest that he should arrange for a message to be sent to the Sheikh of Koweit enjoining caution in his action and language.

I am, &c.,
Salisbury

W.









Confidential.

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00259

No. 1208 E.A.

A copy of the foregoing print is forwarded confidentially to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 886 E.A., dated the 20th June 1899.

By order, etc.,

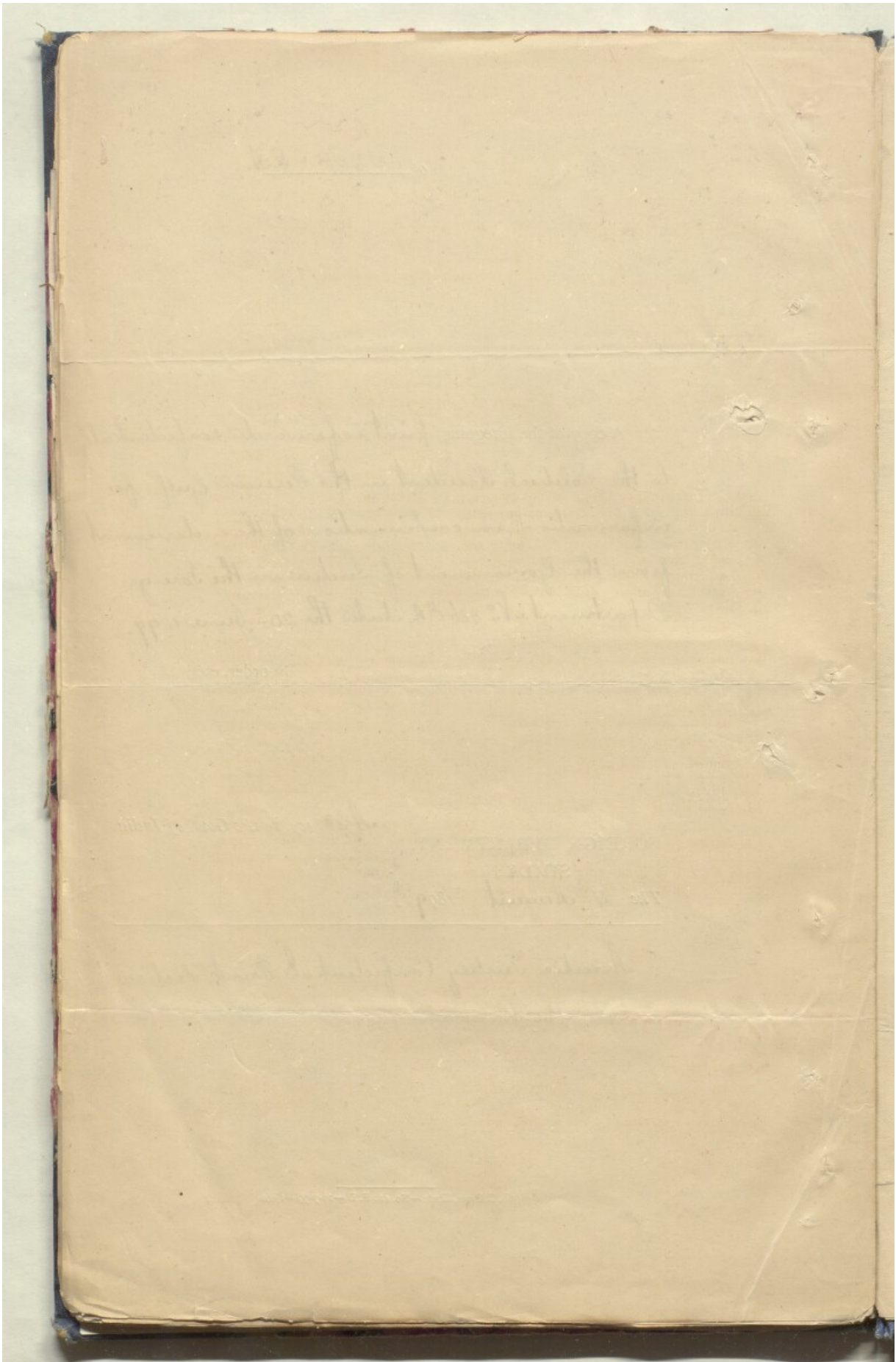
M. J. Curran

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
The 11th August 1899.

Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

cc7

*Asiatic Turkey Confidential Print, Section 2,
dated the 1st May 1899.*





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00260

Received with letter from Secretary, Political and Secret Department, No. 29,
dated the 30th June 1899.

Enclosure in Foreign Office covering letter of 20th May 1899.

ASIATIC TURKEY.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[May 1.]

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 207. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 27, 1899.

With reference to my despatch No. 191, Confidential, of the 20th instant, regarding the negotiations proceeding between M. Rechnitzer and the Sublime Porte for the grant of a Concession for a railroad from the Syrian coast to the Persian Gulf, I learn from the Austrian Ambassador that M. Rechnitzer, who appears to be a Concession hunter by profession, has applied to him for official support on the strength of a recommendation from the Austrian Foreign Office, and that His Excellency has offered to give him a letter to the Porte, stating that he is recommended by his Government and is backed by a strong financial Syndicate.

The inclosed Memorandum gives an account of an interview which Mr. Weakley has had with M. Rechnitzer. The Memorandum contains some interesting details of the course of the negotiations during the period when the Concession was sought in Count Kapnist's name. That gentleman has now informed the Porte that he has ceased to have any interest in the scheme, and has declared M. Rechnitzer to be the real applicant for the Concession.

M. Rechnitzer's proposals have been carefully examined at the Ministry of Public Works, where certain modifications were agreed to, and the scheme, as amended, is now under consideration at the Palace. It embraces the construction of a line from Alexandretta to some point not yet determined on the Persian Gulf, passing through Aleppo, Deir, Bagdad, and Basrah, and a branch line from Bagdad to Nedjef Tesharif *via* Kerbela.

M. Rechnitzer is informed that the Sultan is disposed to grant the desired Concession on condition that the scheme is made to include the construction of a line connecting the new railway with the Anatolian system, running from Koniah to some point between Alexandria and Aleppo, whereby through connection would be established with Constantinople.

I have, &c.,

(Sd.) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memorandum by Mr. Weakley.

(Confidential.)

In continuation of my Memorandum of the 18th instant, I have to report that I have seen M. Rechnitzer, from whom I have obtained the following particulars regarding Count Kapnist's railway scheme.

1



The communication addressed to the Porte by Count Kapnist, intimating his having ceased to have any further interest in the Tripoli-Koweit Railway scheme, and declaring M. Rechnitzer to be the real applicant for the Concession, has now been handed in. The project is now, therefore, in the hands of M. Rechnitzer, who is carrying on the negotiations with the Porte on behalf of the financial Syndicate mentioned in my previous Memorandum on the subject.

M. Rechnitzer explained that the scheme was first brought forward under Count Kapnist's name, with a view to prevent Russian opposition, and with the idea of obtaining powerful influence, both in St. Petersburg and in Constantinople, for the furtherance of the project.

With this end in view, Count Kapnist had been successful in obtaining the support of Count Mouravieff and M. de Witte, on the condition that a portion of the capital necessary for the construction of the line was to be raised on the Russian market.

The scheme was, however, from the outset very strongly opposed by Prince Oukhtomsky, and M. Tatiseff, Financial Adviser to the Russian Embassy in London, considered that Russian support should only be given to Count Kapnist in the event of the project he was interested in being entirely placed under Russian control. M. Tatiseff was even of the opinion that, under such circumstances, the Russian Government scheme of extending the Central Asia Railway into Afghanistan might be abandoned.

In the course of subsequent negotiations, MM. de Witte and Romanoff stipulated that a small share capital of 10,000,000 fr. should be raised, of which 6,000,000 fr. was to be held in Russia, and that a debenture capital of 250,000,000 fr. should be obtained in England. These conditions could not be accepted by the London Syndicate, as they would place the line entirely under Russian control, and further negotiations being impossible, it was considered undesirable that Count Kapnist should, under the circumstances, continue to take an active part in the matter, and that he should give up his interest for a substantial consideration.

The terms of the draft Convention have been carefully examined at the Ministry of Public Works, and certain modifications have been agreed to.

The head of the line will be at Alexandretta instead of at Tripoli; the line will pass close to Aleppo on to Deir, and, following the right bank of the Euphrates, will reach Bagdad and Basrah, and will finally bring up at a point to be determined upon later on on the Persian Gulf, situated between Fao and Koweit, if not Koweit itself. M. Rechnitzer said there seemed to be some doubt as to the sovereignty of Turkey over Koweit, a doubt which had been expressed by Lord Curzon at an interview which M. Rechnitzer had had with him; it had, in consequence, been considered advisable to leave the terminus of the line on the Persian Gulf undetermined for the present.

The proposal for the construction of a branch line from Bagdad to Hannekin has not been entertained by the Porte, as that line will form part of the Anatolian Railway Company's scheme, which joins Hannekin to Moussoul by way of Kifri. On the other hand, no objection was made to a branch being extended from Bagdad to Nedjef Tesharif *via* Kerbela.

M. Rechnitzer has been informed that His Majesty the Sultan is favourably disposed to grant him the Concession he has applied for on condition that his scheme includes the building of 450 kilom. of railway from Koniah *via* Adana to join the proposed line from Alexandretta at a point between that port and Aleppo, in order to have a through connection with Constantinople over the Anatolian system, which has Koniah as a terminus.

Osman Bey, Sous-Chef de l'État-Major, has received instructions from the Palace to examine M. Rechnitzer's proposals, and His Excellency Tahsin Bey, First Secretary of the Palace, has been instructed to prepare a special report on the subject for His Majesty the Sultan's perusal.



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00261

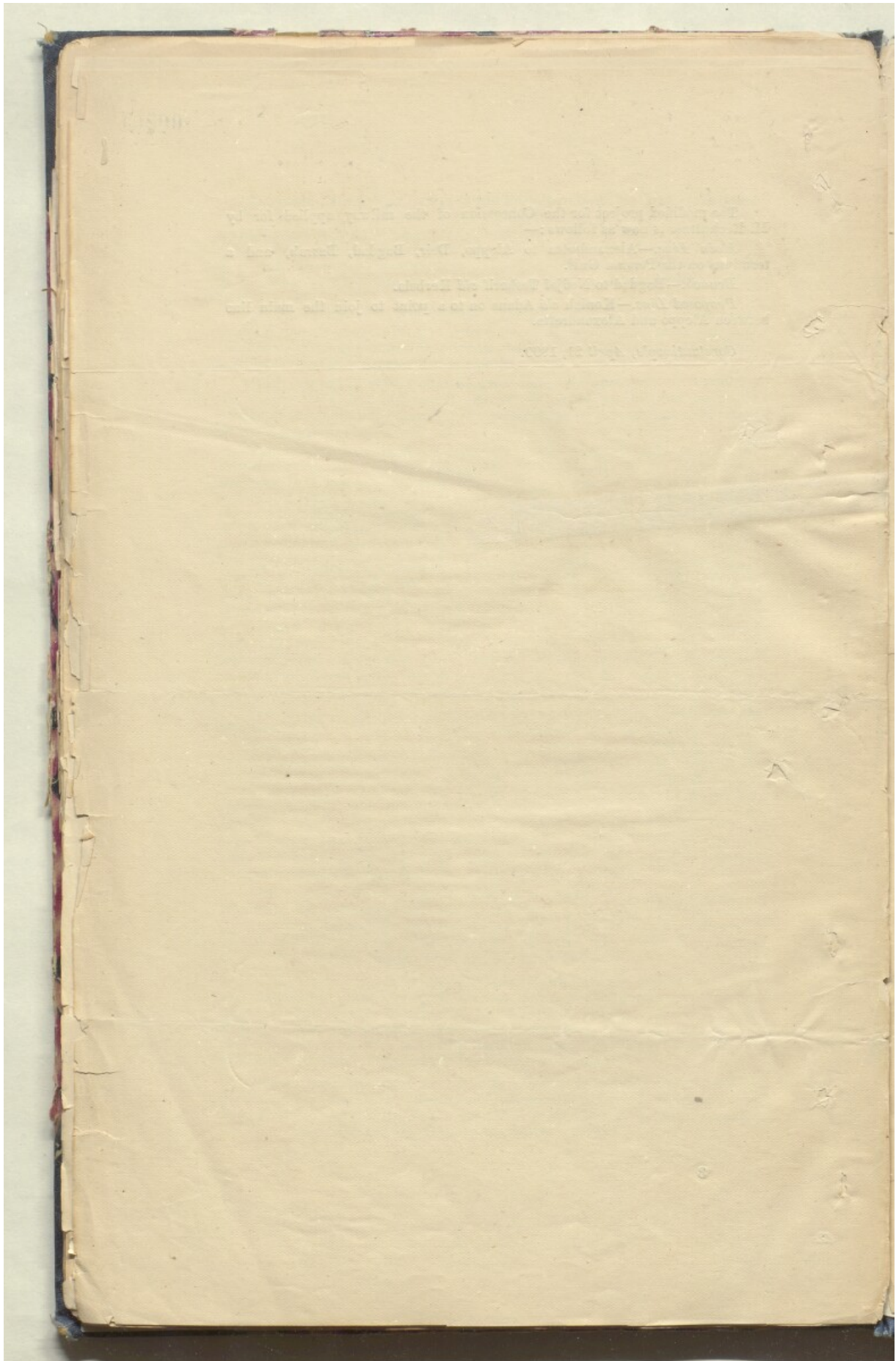
The modified project for the Concession of the railway applied for by M. Rechnitzer is now as follows :—

Main Line.—Alexandretta to Aleppo, Deir, Bagdad, Basrah, and a terminus on the Persian Gulf.

Branch.—Bagdad to Nedjel Tesharif *via* Kerbela.

Proposed Line.—Koniah *via* Adana on to a point to join the main line between Aleppo and Alexandretta.

Constantinople, April 21, 1899.





Telegram To: Foreign
 Saida
 To Resident
 Bushire

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00262

Secretary of State telegraphs
Consul at Bassorah instructed
to communicate directly with you
in addition to his usual report
to Constantinople & Bagdad by
best means at his command
on matters affecting Koweit
& in case any emergency there
requiring immediate action
also to report direct to Govt
of India. Keep him informed
of your movements

Foreign
2nd August 99.

